

thechronicle

Flaming fun

Crowds line streets as Torch comes to town

Page 2



Medal magic

Man U veteran reunited with his precious award

Page 10



Heathen help

New sponsorship deal is celebrated

Page 40



Fears are expressed over plan for energy

A WASTE plant capable of generating electricity for up to 8,000 homes will be built under plans unveiled this week.

Clean Power Properties wants to build the plant, which will create 30 jobs, on disused land owned by Network Rail off Moor Street, Brierley Hill.

Domestic and commercial waste would be fed into the plant and turned into gas for combustion to create energy and heat using a process called pyrolysis. Bosses say the six-acre plant would release low carbon dioxide emissions and no smelly odour. It would also heat up nearby swimming pools according to the proposals.

The proposal is at a very early stage and despite talks taking place between the company and Dudley Council, no planning application has been submitted.

A public exhibition on the scheme will be held at Brierley Hill Project, in South Street, on Friday from noon to 7pm and on Saturday from 10am to 2pm.

The plans have been met with caution from some people in the community. Town businessman Bob Mantle, of BHF Florists in High Street, said: "Do we really want a pyrolysis plant here, in Brierley Hill?"

"It feels like we have become the dumping ground of the area."

Dentist dies in car crash

POPULAR dentist Colin Bromage, aged 60 died when the Mini Cooper he was driving hit a wall in Clattercut Lane in Rushock, near Kidderminster last week.

Mr Bromage, who leaves wife Judy and two grown-up children, had been at the Worcester Street dental practice for the last eight years and previously had his own practice in Bath Road.

Dental nurse Sara Woodall, who worked with him for 23 years, said: "He was a gentleman."

OLYMPIC TORCH BOOSTS BOROUGH

Report by Alex Homer

THE ICONIC Olympic flame lit up the Dudley borough as tens of thousands of people turned out to welcome the Torch for the once-in-a-lifetime event.

More than 30,000 people welcomed the flame and the torchbearers - with traders reaping the benefits of an estimated six-figure windfall.

Crowds lined Birmingham New Road, Tipton Road and the pathways of the Black Country Living Museum to catch a glimpse of the iconic Flame.

Not only were young and old able to take in the historic occasion on Saturday, but also the passing trade generated from the people who took to the streets delivered a welcome

boost to borough businesses.

Dudley South MP Chris Kelly estimated the borough's windfall would top six figures.

He said: "There must have been 30,000 people out on the streets of Dudley and I suspect most of those will have spent a couple of pounds in the borough on average each, so that's at least a six-figure boost."

"Not only is this good for trade but it's great to see the Black Country Living Museum showcase the best of the region's great heritage, historic canal network and its industry."

Dudley Mayor Councillor Melvyn Mottram added: "We've had a very proud weekend but nothing would have been possible without a great turnout from the people of Dudley."

Overwhelming

Ross Ensor, an 18-year-old Dudley College student, was among those to carry the Flame in Dudley.

He brought the historic symbol into the Dudley Canal Trust venue before it boarded the President narrowboat.

He said: "It was almost overwhelming to see so many people queuing."

Ben Hudson, aged 17, who hit the headlines last year when bravely saving 14-year-old Chloe West from a terrifying knife attack outside a school near his Stourbridge home, ran the Torch leg through Horseley Fields, Wolverhampton.

He said: "That was the best moment of my life. Not many people of my age have already got something to tell their grandkids about. I felt really honoured. It was a breath-taking experience."

Dominic Macgowan, aged 12, the UK's youngest Torchbearer got his moment in the spotlight as he ran with the Olympic Flame in Birmingham.

● Picture special - Page 2

Carnival capers for thousands



Chantelle Bradley and Percy Simmonds joined thousands of carnival-goers

THOUSANDS of visitors turned out as all the fun of the fair came to Stourbridge for the town's 25th annual carnival.

Attractions included a fun fair in Market Street and Talbot Street, live singers and crafts in the Ryemarket Shopping Centre and a display of classic cars in Lower High Street. A group from Hanbury Hill Baptist Church scooped top prize in the walking

parade this year for their costumes as team GB. They wore laurel wreaths, head dresses, Union Jacks and mock Olympic flames.

Churchgoer Carolyn Skeldon, of Grant Close in Kingswinford, said she was delighted. The mother-of-two, a nursery nurse at St James Primary School, Kingswinford, said: "It was brilliant to see good community spirit."

Vigilance warning as schools burgled

THOUSANDS of pounds worth of computer equipment has been stolen in a spate of thefts at schools near Stourbridge, sparking a police warning for vigilance.

West Merica Police is urging schools to review their security following several burglaries at schools in Hagley.

Twenty-two white Acer netbooks were stolen from Haybridge High School.

While Hagley RC School and Hagley Junior and Infants School have also been targeted by thieves.

Police are investigating whether the school burglaries are linked and warning head teachers in the area that laptops and computer equipment are being targeted.

Thieves struck at Haybridge High in Brake Lane during the early hours of last Thursday (28 June).

Nine Apple Mac monitors and an Apple Mac laptop were among property stolen from Hagley RC High School, in Brake Lane, between June 23 and 25. More than £1,000 damage was caused during the break-in.

Police and Community Support Officers were this week contacting schools and colleges to discuss security levels and deterrents.

People living nearby are also being asked to remain vigilant.

Church runs a Bible feat

OUR Lady and All Saints Catholic parish in Stourbridge is staging a non-stop sponsored reading of the Bible from noon on Sunday to noon on Thursday July 12 to complete.

The event is part of a major fund raising effort.

It will pay for the costs of essential repairs to the church, renovation of the grounds and restoration of the railings back to the original look of the church when it was as built in 1864.

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Happy youngsters line the road with faces painted, waving flags as the torch passes through the borough



Betty Billingsley, Vilma Walsh and Jean Carter, from Friends of the Black Country Living Museum watch at the museum site



Volunteer Ross Ensor, aged 18, from Wall Heath, who was nominated for his work caring for others



Kate McFarlane, centre, Graham Wheatcroft, Keith Mellor, Janet Small and Bob Dale



Brave Ben Hudson, who saved a teenager from a knife attack, holds the Flame aloft

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Loving wife gives gift of life by donating kidney



Stuart Caldicott and his wife Debbie

A LOVING wife has given her husband the gift of life – after donating her kidney.

Debbie Caldicott pledged to undergo the surgery after partner Stuart's ongoing kidney problems took a turn for the worse. The mother went through 12 months of rigorous tests before doctors gave her the go-ahead to go under the knife on February 28.

The devoted couple, who have been married 18 years, are now on the mend after undergoing the life-saving operation at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

The pair, both aged 42, of Brookfield Way, Tipton, are back at work and enjoying their new lease of life.

Clockmaker

Mr Caldicott, a clockmaker based in Stourbridge, said: "Her gift to me has saved my life. I can't believe how lucky I am to have such a wonderful wife."

Mrs Caldicott, a manager for HM Revenue and Customs, said: "It was always something I was happy to do to make him better. It will not only change his life, but will improve our lives together."

Mr Caldicott's health problems started when he suffered a kidney failure eight years ago and he was forced to undergo daily dialysis. He maintained his health for three years, but was forced to give up his job as his condition left him too tired to work.

He started clock-work business SMD Clocks and Crafts at the Red House Glass Cone two years ago, but last September suffered a setback and was forced to have both kidneys removed.

Singers can rock up for choir

NATIONAL singing phenomenon Rock Choir is coming to Stourbridge in September 2012.

It will be offering people of all ages and abilities the chance to sing and perform the pop, chart, gospel and Motown songs.

And interested singers can try a free 90-minute taster session, on Thursday 12th July from 8pm-9.30pm which will be held at Thorns Community College, Stockwell Avenue, Brierley Hill, West Midlands DY5 2NU.

Rock Choir is said to be the UK's original and largest amateur contemporary, with over 16,000

members in more than 200 locations nationwide. It was started in 2005, by musician and singer Caroline Redman Lusher, who wanted to reignite people's joy of singing, and give them a fun, life-enhancing experience.

Unlike more traditional choirs or choral societies there are no auditions, and no need to read music or have any previous singing experience.

Local Rock Choir leader Christa Hugo will be running fun-filled weekly rehearsals in Stourbridge from 20th September.

Pianist in concert

WORSLEY born pianist Janine Smith will be performing with Volante Strings on Saturday 7th July. The concert which includes music by Mendelssohn, Grieg, Delius and Vivaldi takes place at St James's church Wollaston, near Stourbridge at 7.30pm.

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Groups rush to sign up for spot in new arts centre

DRAMA groups are clamouring for a place in a new £2.1million arts centre being built in Stourbridge as work on the ambitious project nears completion.

A former glasshouse, which was part of the Royal Doulton factory in Amblecote, is being transformed into a venue for training, arts exhibitions, events, and will have rooms to hire.

It is already proving popular with enquires and bookings flooding in from interested groups.

The Glasshouse Arts Centre shares the same site as the Ruskin Glass Centre and has been funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Arts Council.

The venue will be used for art exhibitions and events and will also provide training and apprenticeship opportunities for future glassmakers.

Festival

Work to refurbish the old glasshouse began in March and is due to finish in time for the International Festival of Glass in August.

An auditorium with seating for 400 people has been built and the existing Lehr theatre is being revamped with improved sound and lighting equipment to cater for an audience of 80 visitors.

Ruskin Glass Centre manager Leigh White said: "Enquiries and bookings are already coming in to hire the space for regular rehearsals by local drama groups to conferencing and hospitality bookings."

"The new arts centre will be a great local asset and will enable both the Glasshouse College and the general public to engage in a new enhanced programme of cultural and artistic activity."



Work progresses on the striking new main entrance to the building



Workmen busy constructing the studio theatre at the arts centre

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Officers in discussions over boarded-up shops

HOPES a line of shut-up shops in a Wordsley street will be opened again for business has received a boost.

Dudley Council officers told an area committee meeting they had contacted the owners of outlets in Sandringham Place.

With councillor backing, the officers are to now set a meeting with each of the three landlords to discuss improving the look of each shop and potentially securing new tenants.

The issue was brought to officers' attention after residents voiced concern on how long four out of the six shops had been empty.

They feared they were an eyesore and could attract vandalism. Ward councillor Derrick Hemingsley said: "This has been going on too long."

We have a line of shops which could be doing business and providing a centre for the local community, but instead many are empty, boarded-up and beginning to be an eyesore.

Encouragement

"Encouragement needs to be given to the owners to do something about each of the outlets."

Two out of the parade of six retail units are occupied by a convenience store and a food and wine outlet. A hairdressers and a food store were among the shops which were once open here.

Councillor Hemingsley said: "I know of some potential entrepreneurs who would open here. They may not be the traditional fruit and veg sellers, but they offer life back into an area suffering right now."

At the Brierley Hill Area Committee meeting last night, head of urban environment, Rupert Dugdale said: "We will look to encourage them to make improvements."

In a report to the meeting he said if the shops remained vacant and their condition continued to worsen the council could use enforcement action against the owners.

Honour given to troops



Soldiers march through the streets of Dudley as they are handed the freedom of the borough

MORE than 100 soldiers paraded through the streets of Dudley as they received the freedom of the borough.

Residents waved flags and cheered as they lined the streets of the town centre to see the Royal Mercian Lancastrian Yeomanry, before the ceremony, held on Sunday.

It was one of a number of special events to mark Armed Forces Day, honouring heroes past and present.

Another event had been held at the Royal Air Force Museum Cosford, near Wolverhampton on Saturday where guests, including

ex-servicemen from Dudley, were invited to attend.

At the freedom of the borough event, the parade wound its way from the Territorial Army base, in Vicar Street, to the council house in Priory Road where a commemorative scroll was conferred on the regiment by Dudley's Mayor Councillor Melvyn Mottram.

Under ancient privileges, the regiment is now entitled to march through the town with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, colours flying, drums beating and band playing.

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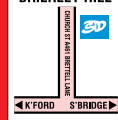
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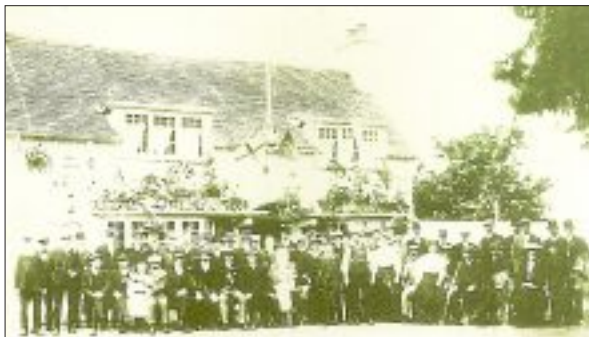
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BRIERLEY HILL





The road to Ye Olde Fieldhouse, from the corner which is now Claregate Island



A celebration at Ye Olde Fieldhouse around the First World War



Lock-keeper's cottage, Dunstall Park corner, Aldersley Junction



Farmer Fred Picken displaying his prize mangels on Aldersley Farm

Lost village that lies at the centre of a bustling city

IN THE heart of Wolverhampton is a huge green area, the extent of which is largely unknown to the people of the city, because it is split into three by canals and railways.

There is Dunstall Park racecourse, opposite a former small holding alongside Oxley Sidings, beyond which is Oxley Park golf course. On the other side of are the fields by Aldersley Stadium.

At the heart of this peaceful green valley are the remains of a lost village, Aldersley. Lost because of its remoteness, its remoteness at the heart of a city.

In 1772 James Brindley opened the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Navigations (S&WCN), the first major east west transport in England, and at what was then called Atherley Junction, it was linked to the Birmingham Canal Navigations (BCN), which rose through 21 locks to the heart of Wolver-

MEMORY LANE

by Alec Brew

hampton, and then beyond to all areas of the Black Country.

At the junction, a village was built for canal workers. There was a large house on one corner for the BCN lock-keeper's cottage and office, behind which was a warehouse.

On the other corner was a toll house and a terrace of four cottages for S&WCN workers. These had cellar stables for narrowboat horses, which is why the bridge over the S&W canal had arches on both sides.

Five years later this junction became even more important with the opening of the Trent & Mersey canal, half a mile away, at a junction which took the name Atherley, the original becoming Aldersley.

For a while, Aldersley was one of the most important transport links in the world, taking the coal and industrial products of the Black Country to the east and west coast, and from there to the world. Surrounding this village

was largely rural, with the Dunstall Park and Oxley Manor estates on one side of the valley, and Aldersley Farm on the other.

A 17th century farmhouse stood roughly where the entrance to Aldersley Stadium lies today, and there were a few cottages.

Blakeley Green House stood, as it does today, just over the hill.

Across a couple of fields, on the Codsall Road were a row of cottages, which still stand, and Ye Olde Fieldhouse next door, where the Claregate Pub stands today.

In the 19th century, the railways cut through the area, and industrial buildings spread along the Stafford Road, so the Dunstall Park and Oxley Manor estates were sold to become racecourse and golf course.

Fred Picken was still farming at Aldersley Farm until it was purchased by the council and Aldersley Stadium built in the 1950s.

The canal junction is now a peaceful place, only leisure boats passing by. Standing by the lost village of Aldersley, as herons swoop overhead, it's hard to imagine you are surrounded by a large industrial city.



The terrace of four cottages on the Oxley Manor corner



The cottage alongside Blakeley Green House, which just survived demolition recently



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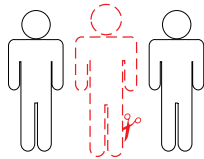


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LETTERS

Wonderful care from hospital

LUCKILY, being fit and healthy, we have not needed the services of our local Russells Hall Hospital to any significant extent before, but recently our 17 year old son was suddenly critically ill with meningitis.

His care began with the emergency services and a rush to A&E by ambulance, assessment on Medical High Dependency before transfer to Critical Care and finally recuperation on Ward C6.

Numerous consultants, doctors, nurses and ancillary staff were involved in his care and we cannot

express our gratitude and admiration for their compassion and skill, professionalism and dedication to their task.

Our son's care as he was moved between wards was seamless, and every new care team were totally prepared to continue meeting his needs without delay.

We, his parents were looked after extremely well and were continually informed about his diagnosis, ongoing care and potential outcomes.

We could not have expected more from the team throughout Russells

Hall Hospital. Our son is now back at home having made a full recovery, and we would be very grateful if through your newspaper you would send this very positive message about our local hospital.

We appreciate that not everyone reflects positively about their hospital experiences, but we would like to give confidence to anyone needing the services of RHH in the future that there is a local centre of excellence in the time of a medical crisis.

LOUIS & HALEY SMITH
Kinver

When are we going to get our say PM?

I WOKE up this morning to something I had given up hope of.

I saw David Cameron on TV saying the words that the people of these islands deserve a say in their future through a referendum.

I had to pinch myself to make sure I wasn't dreaming, surely Mr Cameron wasn't being fair and democratic about our future in or out of the EU?

Then I realised he was talking about the Falkland Islands and their freedom from Argentina.

I support the democratic rights of the islanders and fondly look forward to the day that the rest of us get a say in the future of our own islands.

BILL ETHERIDGE
Tipton Street
Sedgley
Dudley

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Stourbridge Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial, 51-53
Queen Street, Wolverhampton
WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

stourbridge_chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Bookmaking is an honourable trade

AFTER reading Laura Blyth's report on the High Street in Wolverhampton, I feel I must speak out in defence of the bookmaking industry.

Firstly the word "bookie" in my opinion is a derogatory term. Most punters who visit these establishments refer to them as betting shops, and the bookmaking industry today is a highly sophisticated business and totally honourable.

Henry Carver's off the cuff suggestion that there are more betting shops in Harrow than Wolverhampton is incorrect.

Is Mr Carver trying to imply the people of Wolverhampton are less intelligent and more likely to gamble than the residents of Harrow?

There are of course compulsive gamblers who have an addiction whether they are winning or losing but most people are sensible and only invest what they can afford to lose and do it on a recreational basis in the same way as visiting a public house for a drink.

ROY SLIMM
Church Road, Dudley

Mystery of Harrier and the Olympics

IN A recent conversation with our two grandsons (who wanted to see the Olympic Torch pass through the town where they live), they asked if we could remember the last time that the Games were held in the UK in 1948.

As we were both very young, we could not remember the games, but my father used to work with Jack Holden, Tipton Harriers.

As children, we (my two brothers and I) used to "race" Jack when he passed our house on his training runs along Bloomfield Road.

We were told that Jack had taken part in the 1948 Games.

Can anyone confirm this please?

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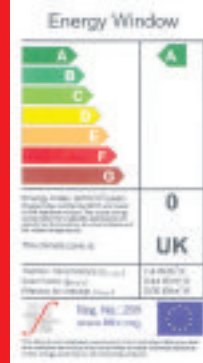
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Pupils from 60s holding reunion

FORMER pupils of a secondary school in Dudley are invited to a reunion which will be taking place later this year.

The catch-up event is taking place at Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Club on October 26.

It is open to old students who went to Sir Gilbert Cloughton School and left in July 1962 or Sixth Form in July 1964.

The school was in Blowers Green Road, Dudley.

Anyone interested can get in touch with Roger Shakespeare.

He can be contacted on 07779 923687.

Firm's £200m victory

A KINGSWINFORD firm which designs and supplies equipment for the aluminium industry has celebrated with its staff since topping £200 million in orders.

Chris Emes and Andrew Riley took over Mechatherm International in High Street, in 1991 from their fathers who started the business.

Celebrate

To celebrate the achievement all 65 employees were invited to a lunch at the Copthorne Hotel, Brierley Hill.

Chairman Mr Riley said they were well on course to achieve their target of achieving annual turnover of £25

million. The specialist furnaces and foundry equipment company, founded in 1973, mainly supplies the aluminium industry.

It has seen staff increase by about 10 in the last 12 months including seven graduates and apprentices.

Managing director Chris Emes said that achieving £200m was a tremendous achievement and one in which every employee had played a part.

"Exports from the UK are down, but you can't accuse Mechatherm of that."

We have got £32m of business on our books for this year, the next two years and a bit beyond.

"We are doing our bit to help export the UK out of debt," he said. Mr Emes said they were winning

orders from the Middle East, Russia, India and Venezuela. "An order from Taiwan had just put us over the £200m," he added.

Mr Riley said Mechatherm had achieved turnover of £14m for the year to the end of February and by 2013-2014 that would reach £18m.

Threat

He said the biggest threat to Mechatherm was from the problems with the euro, but 60 per cent of Mechatherm's order book was now outside the European Union.

Mr Riley said they were going to continue with an investment programme, which includes £100,000 a year on information technology and one per cent of turnover on training.

Firework company will reach for sky in contest

JUBILEE Fireworks, one of the country's leading display firework companies based in Kingswinford will be heading for Plymouth in August to defend their title - champion-of-champions - which they won in 2006.

The company, which is celebrating its Silver Jubilee this year, will be facing stiff competition for the title from the five winners of the British Firework Championships since the last Champion-of-Champions event.

The Championships will take place over two nights on 14th and 15th of August this year.

It is being organised by The Event Services Association in partnership with Plymouth City Council.

The event is now one of the biggest held annually in the South West.

Each of the six competitors will be

expected to produce a 10 minute display - three on each evening - will result in over 4 tonnes of fireworks being used to light up the Plymouth skies over the two nights.

Two panels of judges will be used. One is made up of firework experts and the other of members of the public, including local councillors - will assess each of the displays for creativity and technical skill as well as its 'Wow' factor.

At the end of the competition, one of the competitors will be crowned 'Champion-of-Champions' - a title they will hold for the next six years.

The event is now in its 16th year. It has become established as the biggest annual firework display held annually in the UK and attracts crowds of more than 200,000.

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Medal back with Man U veteran



Former Man United footballer Steve James with his lost medal and youngsters from Buildwas Primary

A FORMER Manchester United footballer from the Black Country has spoken of his delight at being reunited with a medal he has not seen for 25 years.

Steve James was presented with the Division Two championship medal by Buildwas Primary School, in Shropshire, after teachers found it during a clear-out.

The 62-year-old, who won the medal almost 40 years ago, said he was overjoyed. The central defender, who played alongside legends such as George Best and Sir Bobby Charlton, said he was dumbfounded as to how the medal from the 1974-75 season made it to the school.

Mr James, who now works for Waitrose in Stourbridge, said: "I last saw the medal at my parents' house 25 years ago, but how it turned up in a school here, I have no idea."



A close-up of the medal

Crime rate in town dips by nearly 20pc

THE CRIME rate has dropped in Stourbridge by 16 per cent new figures reveal.

The overall number of crimes during the past six months was 1,377. This was down from 1,677 during the same period last year, Stourbridge and Halesowen Inspector Des Lambert said.

The number of burglaries taking place in the area has also fallen. There were 119 reported between January and June last year, compared with 63 this year.

Robberies have fallen by around half. There were 38 reported last year compared with 17 since January this year. The number of violent crimes has dropped by 26 per cent from 355 to 261.

But figures showed that vehicle crime increased by 10 per cent since last year. There have been 226 thefts or break-ins logged since January compared with 206 during the same period last year.

Insp Lambert told members of Stourbridge Area Committee: "We have done a lot of police work to help bring down the crime rate but the community also plays a big role in reducing crimes too by reporting what's happening."

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thechronicle

Safety warning issued on removal of rubbish

WORKERS' lives would have been put at risk if heavy machinery was brought in to lower a towering mound of rubbish in Dudley, a court was told.

Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) Ltd is complying with a High Court order to lower the pile at its plant in Moor Street, which was once 40ft high, by digging and removing the waste in stages. But the firm told a court it had consulted health and safety experts who said it would not have been safe to put machinery on to the top of the pile to reduce its size more quickly.

RDF Ltd has lodged an appeal against a notice served by the Environment Agency requiring the removal of waste and baled waste from areas alleged not to be within the permitted area. The appeal went before Dudley Magistrates Court last week with the case adjourned until after October.

A progress report including measurements of the height of the pile will be made at the October hearing. A decision on whether the appeals process will continue will be taken by magistrates after this date.

Mr Michael Davies, representing RDF, told the court: "The company would not have put lives at risk and wanted to ensure the rubbish pile was handled in the correct and proper way." He said the pile of rubbish had been there before RDF took over the site around two years ago. In a statement after the court proceedings, Mr Davies said: "My client company had always been prepared to work with the Environment Agency and to reduce the stockpile."

Charity bowled over

PUB regulars will take to the wickets to raise money for Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice on Sunday at Oldswinford School.

Punters at the Plough and Harrow in Worcester Street and The Duke William in Stourbridge town centre will join forces in a charity cricket game.

On ball with pupils



Businessman Roy Richardson, who developed Merry Hill Shopping Centre, handed out footballs to Brockmoor Primary School pupils

BUSINESSMAN Roy Richardson, famed for developing the Merry Hill Shopping Centre, took time out to pass on his tips for success to schoolchildren.

Mr Richardson, who with his brother Don developed the retail complex and nearby Waterfront, visited Year Six pupils at Brockmoor

Primary School. His visit came during the school's careers week to inspire the next generation of budding entrepreneurs.

He took along gifts for the children including footballs, St George Flag badges and woolly hats.

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MP calls for awareness over guide dog attacks

MARGOT James MP has supported Guide Dogs UK's call to stop attacks on guide dogs, and attended a reception at the Houses of Parliament along with 150 other MPs.

New figures released showed attacks on guide dogs are at an all-time high, with an average of eight a month. Guide Dogs UK held the reception to highlight the charity's growing concern about attacks on guide dogs by other dogs and to ask MPs for their support.

The Government is currently consulting on compulsory microchipping but has said its preferred option is to microchip puppies only. Under this plan, it would take 10 to 15

years before all dogs are microchipped. Guide Dogs UK believes it would take too long to have an impact and wants to see the compulsory microchipping of all dogs within two years.

Margot said, 'It is awful to hear about attacks on any dog, but particularly on guide dogs due to the vital work that they do to help those with visual impairments.'

An attack on a guide dog is, by extension, an attack on its owner.

Microchipping will mean that a dog's owner can be traced, which will help to tackle the problem of irresponsible dog ownership.'

Parking restrictions stay

COMMUNITY leaders have resisted opposition from a pub landlord and his customers to push ahead with plans for new parking restrictions in Kingswindsford.

The proposal to introduce double yellow lines around The Park Tavern in Cot Lane and Broad Street was unveiled by Dudley Council last October.

It was made following resident complaints of inconsiderate parking, but the plan had since attracted three objections and a petition with nearly 300 signatures opposing the restric-

tions. Park Tavern landlord David Facer said the parking restrictions would impact trade and lead to job losses at the pub.

He said: "The draconian measures proposed have not been thought through properly and seems that the planners are going against a massive majority of views to support the view of very few."

Necessary

However, at a meeting of Brierley Hill Area Committee last week, councillors argued the parking restrictions were necessary and rubber-stamped the plan.

Councillor Dave Tyler described the

lack of road safety when drivers parked in Broad Street as "incredible". He said: "I do have sympathy with the people who run the pub, however you cannot ignore road safety."

The council also considered introducing day-time waiting restrictions in Water Street, Larch Road, Ash Crescent and Standhill Road, in Kingswindsford. The proposal was put forward after concerns employees from a nearby office were leaving their cars outside residents' homes all day.

But after receiving 40 objections and a 150-signature petition against the proposed scheme, the councillors agreed to scrap the idea.

Parish can keep perky

PARISHIONERS at St John's Church in Hagley can stay perky all summer with the news that monthly coffee mornings will continue throughout the next few months.

The first will be held next Wednesday when organist Richard Hall will give a performance before Peter Blore will talk about the curiosities of parish registers.

Other coffee mornings are planned for August 8 and September 12.

Top officer retires



Retiring - Chief Superintendent Keith Baldwin

A SENIOR West Midlands Police officer has retired after spending 30 years with the force.

Chief Superintendent Keith Baldwin worked his final shift at Brierley Hill Police Station yesterday, closing the door on a distinguished career.

The 56-year-old grandfather of two said he "owed the force everything" and was very proud of the work he had done, including as Dudley's police chief over the past six years.

Mr Baldwin, who has lived in Stourbridge most of his life, joined the force in 1982 after first working as a crystal glass maker at the Webb Corbett Factory in the town.

"The industry was in decline at the time and there were better opportunities and challenges to be found in other areas," he said.

Decision

"I decided to join the police force and it was the best decision I ever made. I really owe the force everything. If I could have my time over again I would have from school."

Mr Baldwin, who was educated at King Edward Grammar School, started his career in Wolverhampton where he served until his promotion to sergeant in 1989.

He was then posted to Birmingham City Centre and ran the divisional robbery squad as a detective sergeant. Mr Baldwin was first posted to Dudley in the mid-90s becoming operations superintendent in 2005 and becoming commander for the Dudley borough in 2006.

"I have been a police officer for 30 years but you have to retire sometime and this seemed as good a time as any," he said. "I will miss working with the force and the camaraderie with my colleagues. I will also miss dealing with the people issues which are an integral part of police work."

Mr Baldwin is married and has two grown-up children and two grandchildren.

Fear of traffic chaos as store is expanded

FEARS have been raised over a proposed multi-million pound expansion of a Kingswindsford supermarket which residents claim will cause traffic chaos on surrounding roads.

Morrisons wants to demolish its existing store in Stallings Lane and replace it with a 40,000 sq ft development, creating 70 jobs. But people living and working near the site are objecting.

They have written to Dudley Council to express their concern, saying traffic conditions in Stallings Lane are already "a major cause for concern".

"The increase in traffic that a larger store would bring to these already overcrowded junctions would be totally unacceptable and would dramatically increase the number of accidents," stated one objector.

Morrisons spokesman Mark Hill said: "Morrisons held a public consultation exhibition in January, which was attended by more than 700 local people."

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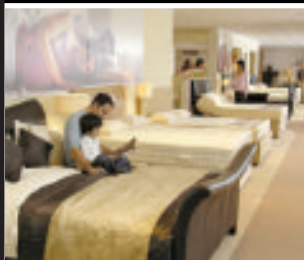
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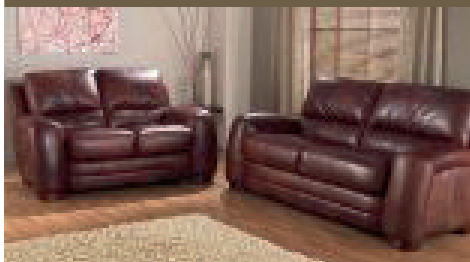


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Musician and store owner Pete Boddis at First Floor Vintage which is crammed with memorabilia

Rock 'n' roll and cowboys led Pete to love of guitars

A shop packed with memorabilia offers a rare glimpse into musical history.
ANDREW TURTON reports

WELCOME to First Floor Vintage in Stourbridge's Lower High Street run by veteran singer-songwriter Pete Boddis.

Guitars and records are crammed alongside posters and signed photographs dedicated to some of the biggest names in American music.

Racks of records, dating back decades and many in their original sleeves are tightly packed in rows.

There are Stetsons, cowboy shirts, old turntables, books and videos almost too bewildering to comprehend in one glance.

The 67-year-old musician has been a fixture on the local pub and club circuit since the mid-1960s and can often be found strumming his guitar among the organised chaos of the unique store-come-museum opened 18 months ago.

It was born out of Mr Boddis' hobby after the collection outgrew his Wollaston home.

"All this was at home before, hidden around in different rooms until the wife said it was time to get it out the house," he says.

Clicked

"So I started with the main room with the guitars which was sort of a half museum and display and half sale. "Then I brought the vinyl down and I think that clicked with people."

More than 70 guitars, mandolins and ukuleles sit around the walls and floor of the store's largest room.

Among his most treasured possessions is a 1962 National Studio 66 Res-o-Glas guitar owned by bassist John Entwistle, from The Who, which was sold at auction following the band member's death in 2002.

Another special purchase was a 1955 Gretsch Country Club guitar signed by country music icon Willie Nelson which takes pride of place.

It is thought to be worth around £2,250 and comes complete with original case. The instrument was bought on the internet from a dealer in Nashville.

"I started with rock 'n' roll of course but I was influenced by watching cowboy films on Saturday mornings" says Mr Boddis.

"That's when I started hearing



Pete Boddis between cutouts of Hopalong Cassidy and Roy Rogers



A 1962 fibreglass guitar made for John Entwistle of The Who



A 1990s Ibanez guitar signed by Hollywood actor Dan Aykroyd



A 1955 Gretsch Country Club guitar signed by Willie Nelson

country music, and it doesn't get much bigger than Willie Nelson."

While some items in the collection are not for sale, others including many Gibson mandolins have been bought by musicians in recent months.

He also has a 1990s Ibanez guitar signed by Hollywood star Dan Aykroyd and a Martin ukelele which had been carried through war zones including Korea and Vietnam, by a Sgt L.K. Loo, who had written the places he served in between 1955 and 1969 on the inside of the case.

Fascination

Mr Boddis' fascination with classic American fashion designers such as Audie Cohn who is famed for creating a gold lame suit for Elvis Presley and other clothing for actors and singers Roy Rogers and Dale Evans and

British music icon Elton John. Mr Boddis, who is married to Lynne, first found his love of music with friends at the former King Edwards VI grammar school in Stourbridge in the late 50s.

"Two or three of us were into the music and we got together and at 15 formed a rock and roll band," he says.

Their gig was at the old Midland Red garage social club - now home to the Mercedes car dealership on Stourbridge ring road.

"We had to carry the amps and the guitars on the bus. We were mainly self-taught, I had a few lessons but I can't read music," he says.

He also started his own country music club at The Garibaldi pub, Cross Street, Stourbridge. Mr Boddis gigged around the area with a country band for about 12 years.

Thief who attempted to smuggle drugs is jailed

A CRIMINAL, who tried to smuggle drugs into a Midland prison has been locked up for 20 months.

Prolific thief Shane Cartwright had been warned he was about to be recalled to jail after breaking the rules of his early release from a three-and-a-half-year sentence for burglary, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard yesterday.

Prepared

So the 30-year-old from Kingsway, Wollaston, Stourbridge, prepared for the move by stocking up on drugs for him to use while held behind bars, explained prosecutor Anthony Warner.

A strip search revealed £150 worth of heroin hidden in a Kinder egg found in a

pocket of his clothing while a £10 heroin wrap and methadone valued at £30 was discovered concealed on his body, the court was told.

The drugs were found during a search at a police station before he was transferred to Hewell Prison near Redditch in Worcestershire.

Cartwright, who had two cautions for drug possession, admitted attempting to bring heroin and other drugs into jail on September 5 last year on the basis they were for his own use.

Miss Samantha Powis, defending, insisted: "It was not going to be taken in as currency or anything else save to get him through what he knew would be a difficult time."

School's top at improving

A SCHOOL in the Black Country has been rated as having some of the fastest improving GCSE results in the country.

And the headteacher says the success has been achieved by giving youngsters confidence to set their sights high.

Wordsley School qualified in the top 10 per cent of schools in England by improving its GCSE results year-on-year from 2008 to 2011 by at least 19 per cent overall.

The number of children at the school, in Brierley Hill Road, Wordsley, who passed at least five GCSEs with grades of A* to C rose from 28 per cent three years ago to 50 per cent last year. The five good passes must include English and maths to qualify for the

rating. Every school in the country has been ranked according to how much progress they made in improving their GCSE results in 2011 in new rankings released by SSAT - the representative body for schools.

Wordsley School headteacher Mike Lambert said: "It's wonderful for us to be in the top 10 per cent most improved in the country, although in fact, as there were only eight schools on the most improved list for three years, we are actually in the top 0.25 per cent."

"It's been a gradual process, building pupils' confidence and supporting children to have high expectations for themselves."

Sue Williamson, chief executive of SSAT said: "Wordsley School should be congratulated for their stunning

achievement in improving their GCSE results."

"Wordsley School has proved itself to be one of the best schools in the country at improving GCSE outcomes for their students. There is plenty that other schools could learn from Wordsley School's success."

"These results are testament to the commitment and hard work of the students, teachers and leadership team at Wordsley School and a vindication of their belief in high expectations, good teaching and ambition for every young person. Successful schools like Wordsley School understand the value of data, such as these progress measures, in helping to ensure all young people perform to the very best of their ability."

Wives will be meeting

HAGLEY Wives and Women's Fellowship group will be holding its annual general meeting on Tuesday at 8pm in St Saviour's Hall.

After a summer break members will start their new programme on September 11.

It will take the form of an informal service in St Saviour's Church which will be interdenominational and will include members' favourite hymns and readings.

A meeting will be held afterwards in the church hall, and potential members are encouraged to attend.

All in a drey's work for Dotty and David



David Craddock and his horse Dotty deliver ale from the Duke William pub

A BREWERY in the Black Country pulled in the crowds by reviving old-fashioned horse-drawn deliveries.

Residents lined the streets to see Dotty the dray horse pull six firkins of beer from the Duke William in Stourbridge.

The ale made a half-hour journey from the Coventry Street pub to The Plough in Worcester Street.

David Craddock, who runs the Duke and the Craddock's brewery on the site, organises the delivery every Sunday lunchtime.

He bought the horse last year and had the dray specially made to remind people of the brewing industry's history. He said: "We get quite a few regulars who come along to watch and they seem to enjoy it."

"When we get to The Plough we stand there for about an hour and talk to people and answer any questions. We thought it would be nice to keep the old traditions alive and it really brightens up people's day."

Business has been booming since Mr Craddock invested more than £20,000 on brewery equipment last year.

Hands to the pump as sales of real ale boom

SALES of real ale have been booming in Black Country pubs as recent poor weather drove people indoors.

While cider group C&C has seen sales in the UK fall by more than a fifth in three months to the end of May, brewers in the region say beer sales were on the up.

Chris Sadler, director of Lye-based Sadler's Ales, said that sales of their real ales had done better in the poor weather.

"Our beers are sold at 600 outlets in the West Midlands, mainly in the urban areas where we have seen better sales during the bad weather period this year. The Diamond Jubilee and European football has also helped us," he said.

The Holden's Brewery in Woodseton is expanding because of growing demand for its real ale. It needs to increase capacity to produce an extra 25,000 pints a week.

Meanwhile, at Daniel Batham and Son in Brierley Hill, production director Tim Batham said: "The bad weather is good for our beer sales. When we get glorious sunshine we call it cider weather because we see sales go down as people switch."

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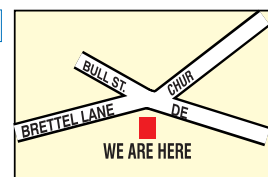
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Thug jailed for attack on ex-girlfriend's brother

Something used.....



Debbie Porter from Bridal Secrets in Kingswinford tries on a dress

BRIDES are turning into second hand roses as the recession bites – and one Black Country shop has launched a new line in used dresses as they tighten their belts.

Bridal Secrets, in Market Street, Kingswinford, has so far stocked up on about 30 used frocks – most worn just once but a couple from wed-

dings that didn't happen. Joyce Alexander, owner of Bridal Secrets, said: "In this day and age, girls still want a big wedding – but they can't afford the big prices. We think our new dresses are reasonable anyway at between £399 and £1,000 each. These dresses cater for wanting to spend between £150 and £300."

A MAN who attacked his ex-girlfriend's brother after knocking him unconscious outside a Black Country park, was starting a five-and-a-half year jail sentence today.

Daniel Breakwell, aged 23, struck after unexpectedly meeting Brett Peck in the street, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard yesterday. Both had been drinking and Mr Peck was "spoiling for a fight", the court heard.

Prosecutor Mr Hugh O'Brien-Quinn said the defendant punched the victim with enough force to knock him out. Witnesses said Mr Peck fell backwards and his head hit the pavement outside Swanpool Park, Wollaston with a "sickening" thud, the court was told.

Punches

Breakwell then delivered six "heavy punches" to the victim, said Mr O'Brien-Quinn, who continued: "He was pulled away but returned to strike half a dozen more blows before being removed again. He ran back and kicked him to the head." One witness said it was like a footballer taking a penalty kick, the court heard.

Mr Peck was left lying in a pool of blood after the attack on March 14 at 6pm. He suffered a broken nose and other facial injuries that needed 25 stitches to repair.

Mr Tim Talbot-Webb, defending, said Mr Peck had been aggressive and had said "hurtful things". The defendant, of Bedcote Place, Stourbridge, admitted wounding with intent.

Diamond flowers

ST PETER'S Church in Church Hill, Kinver, is holding a flower festival from Friday to Sunday, with the theme of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Further information is available from Mavis Phillips on 01384 873443.



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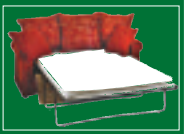
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CLUB NEWS

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Party time as jubilee is marked

K'FORD TG

THE June meeting of Kingswinford TG took the form of a Jubilee celebration.

Chairman Enid Fennell complimented members on the imaginative way they had all managed to follow a red, white and blue theme in their attire.

The greetings card, which had been on display last month, had been duly dispatched.

After the necessary business had been completed and announcements of forthcoming federation events made, the party began.

First came the national anthem, sung with enthusiasm, but with no accompaniment. This was followed by everyone reading the officially approved Jubilee Grace. Strawberries and cream were consumed while Sheila Watt had baked a beautiful Jubilee cake. It was such a pity she was suddenly taken ill and was not able to be present to share it with us because it was really delicious.

Joan Harris proposed the loyal toast and evening continued with red, white and blue themed sales table.

There were eight raffle prizes and Mrs Fennell closed the meeting by thanking everyone who had helped in any way to make the evening a success.

The next meeting will be on July 9 with Graham Fisher talking about "The Jewels On The Cut".

Toast to Her Majesty at picnic fit for Queen



Members of Codsall M Townswomen celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

CODSALL 'M' TOWNSWOMEN

THE Village Hall was the venue for a special picnic organised by Codsall 'M' Townswomen's Guild in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Committee members hung flags, streamers and bunting around the hall and each table was laid with red, white and blue flowers and the Union flag with matching serviettes.

Members dressed in red, white and blue costumes and each brought their own food.

President Jean Boffey and vice president Norah Kelly judged the most patriotic outfits and Jill MacPhail and Sandra Med-

dings were the winners of a Jubilee lollipop. Next came a Royal quiz and one team of four ladies won Jubilee biscuits as their prizes.

A mammoth raffle was held with more than 20 prizes with proceeds going to the charities fund.

A Diamond Jubilee cake was cut and served with wine for a loyal toast and the meeting ended with the National Anthem and three rousing cheers for Her Majesty.

Commons invitation by MP

FRIENDS OF DUDLEY CASTLE

GROUP members enjoyed a visit to the Houses of Parliament at the invitation of Ian Austin MP. They were treated to a guided tour including the Jewel House.

The group meets monthly in the Castle Undercroft during the summer months

Jubilee summer social in the Castle Courtyard on July 11 at 7.15 for 7.30pm

The next coach outing is on September 8 to Fountains Abbey and Ripon and on September 1, the group will meet for a tour and talk at Weoley Castle.

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Everything in garden's rosy for top teamwork



Plant manager Ben Creevy with the RHS silver-gilt medal award



The winning design from children at Burlish Park Primary School

THE BARNETT Hill garden centre in Stourbridge helped a primary school win a major competition and then went on to pick up their own honours.

Burlish Park Primary School, from Stourport-on-Severn celebrated success at the Malvern Spring Gardening Show winning the Best School Garden while garden centre staff went on to win an RHS Gold Medal.

Barnett Hill provided the school with many of the plants for their show garden and a pump for their water feature.

The garden was designed by the children as part of a creative experience based on their learning within school to convey the theme of the Roald Dahl book 'George's Marvellous Medicine'.

The aim being to allow the children to gain an insight into how to reuse the materials imaginatively.

They were also taught traditional skills by craftspeople, improving their gardening skills, especially propagation and knowledge of plant identification.

Combinations

Plant manager Ben Creevy and the team at Barnett Hill assisted the school at the design stage, suggesting ideas, acting as design consultants and putting together most of the planting combinations.

The RHS were so impressed by the garden that they asked Burlish Park Primary School to recreate it at The BBC Gardeners' World Show at the NEC, Birmingham.

Unfortunately due to time table restrictions, Ben Creevy and Spencer Goulding, Grounds and Plants Assistant, offered their expertise and helped with the planting to come up with new plant combinations to recreate the garden.

Undaunted they rose to the challenge beating off tough competition from professional Landscapers.

The judges awarded them a silver-gilt; in a year where judging was particularly tough and very few silver-gilt medals were awarded.

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£40,000 award for probation

STAFFORDSHIRE and West Midlands Probation Trust has won first prize in a national competition that looks at ideas to improve neighbourhoods.

It will use the £40,000 to develop a mobile phone application to make it easier for people to nominate projects they want offenders to carry out to improve their neighbourhood.

Team leader Jason Davies said: "There were 10 seriously good ideas in the final this year, which makes us even more pleased to have won."

The application will allow people to use their mobile phone to take a photo of an eyesore that they think needs cleaning up.

They can then send the photo to the relevant trust at the click of a button.

The geographical reference, or geo-tag, attached to the photo will help the trust identify the location and assess the nomination for its suitability for a clean-up.

Senior technical architect Mark Lawson added: "This is a great opportunity to learn best practice techniques that will be really useful in projects we're looking at developing."

Engaging job

WEST Midlands Police Authority is recruiting a community engagement officer to arrange meetings and events to help the authority improve its communication with the public.



Smethwick canal pump house off Great Western Street by the Galton Valley Canal Heritage Centre



Lock keeper Cliff Sherwood, who takes care of the Bratch Locks workings which are at Wombourne



Stafford Boat Club along the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal in Wildwood, Stafford

Canals to make splash on Google mapping project

RIVERS and canals from across Staffordshire and the Black Country are being included on a hi-tech mapping service designed by experts at the internet search engine Google.

In its latest mapping project, the team behind Google Maps has started plotting all of the UK's towpaths in a bid to get more people enjoying the country's rivers and canals.

Google Maps will be updated later this year to allow users to plan trips which include locks, bridges and towpaths along the 2,000 miles of river paths in the UK.

Among some of the routes listed will be the Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal, which takes in large parts of the area, including the historic Bratch Locks at Wombourne.

The mapping service will also include details of the Dudley Canal, which was used

Putting popular spots on the map

Which waterways and features will be included?

■ **The Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal**, which takes in a large part of the area and snakes near to Stafford before taking in Penkridge, Acton Trussell and Calfe Heath. The canal enters north-west Wolverhampton and shadows the River Smestow and around

Compton and Tettenhall, before descending into the Bratch Locks at Wombourne.

■ **The Bratch Locks** at Wombourne are a noted feature of the canal and were opened in 1772 as a three lock staircase. They were later re-engineered as three separate locks.

■ **The Dudley Canal** was

used in the 1700s to transport coal from coalfields near Dudley to Stourbridge.

■ **The Wyrley & Essington Canal**, nicknamed Curley Wyrley due to its twisting course, once busy with boats carrying coal. Runs for nearly 17 miles from Wolverhampton through to Brownhills.

in the 1700s to transport coal from coalfields near Dudley to Stourbridge.

Google has started the project today in partnership with the Canal and River Trust. Tony Hales, the chairman of the trust, said: "We are delighted that these exciting part-

ners have come on board as we launch. This is a huge vote of confidence in the Canal and River Trust and recognition of the important role it will play as the guardian of one of the nation's environmental treasures."

Ed Parsons, a geospatial technologist at

Google UK, added: "Canal towpaths offer green routes through our towns and cities, and by working with the Canal and River Trust we're adding towpaths to Google Maps and encouraging people to discover their local waterway."

In April Google added live Tube information to Google Maps from Transport for London in preparation for a surge in public transport use during the Olympics.

Level

It also updated its maps service to show real-time traffic conditions, allowing it to calculate the shortest route to a user's destination.

Where Google has enough information, roads are colour-coded based on the level of congestion. Green routes are moving well, while red routes are slow.

The feature is available on Google Maps on the web and for Android mobile users in Britain, the US, Canada, France and Australia. It covers major routes across Britain.

Aga tops poll with public on design

AGA has been voted the best brand in the Midlands in a public poll run as part of a design expo in Birmingham.

The Shropshire oven manufacturer came out on top in the Birmingham Made Me awards.

The awards polled the West Midlands public on the region's most respected brands.

The firm also saw its latest release – the Aga Total Control named a runner-up in the award for best Midlands innovation and radical design.

The Aga Total Control can be switched on and off at the touch of a button.

Aga Rangemaster chief executive William McGrath said: "Aga is rooted in the Midlands."

"The brand speaks to cooking quality, great looks and an incomparable ambience in the home."

He added: "Being involved alongside so many great design and innovation-led brands at Birmingham Made Me Design Expo – and on the awards shortlist – makes winning a great moment for us all at Aga Rangemaster."

Aga came out on top of other well-known brands including Aston Martin, Cadbury, Codemasters, Jaguar Cars, JCB, Marmite, Paul Smith, Poundland, and The Royal Shakespeare Company.

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Pupils show how to make an entry at school's prom

A HORSE and carriage, sports cars and novelty limos were among the spectacular ways that pupils at a Kingswinford school arrived at their prom.

About 200 Year 11 students from Summerhill School attended the colourful event, which was held at Blakelands Country Guest House and Restaurant, Bobington.

No expense was spared at the annual prom, which is arranged by the pupils themselves with the help of teachers.

The boys and girls all donned their finery for a night they are bound to remember for a long time.

Assistant headteacher Julia Robinson said the pupils' way of travelling to the event had been more inventive than ever, with novelty limousines designed to look like a police car and a fire engine.

She said: "Students arrived by limos, sports cars, emergency service vehicles and, for the first time in the history of the event, a horse-drawn carriage.

Arrived

"The pupils entered Blakefields walking elegantly down a red carpet and feeling like royalty.

"It was an incredible night and one I think they'll remember for a long time."

Louise Passmore, receptionist at Blakelands, said the it was venue's fifth school prom of the year and that once again it had been a great success.

She said: "Summerhill come here for their prom every year.

"They arrived and had non-alcoholic Bucks Fizz, a finger buffet and a disco.

"Everyone seemed to have a brilliant time."

The girls donned an array of party dresses in practically every colour of the rainbow, while the young men looked smart in their sharp suits.



Talluah Flavell, Samantha Fairley, Jodie Baker, Isobel Beech, Rachel George, Vicki Sidaway, Isobel Lobel, Katie Horne, Abi Lote, Christie Grove and Holly Shaw



Travelling in style – a horse-drawn carriage draws up for Millie Gordon, Lizzie Vickery, Tara Gaiger and Eleanor Jordan



Looking dapper – suited and booted, from left, Dave Fisher, Josh Hayden, Joe Cartwright and Billy Whitehouse

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thechronicle

Paloma graces pop scene with her second album

I To Grace

SHE still has the ickie girl voice when she talks but Paloma Faith's vocals are maturing on her emotional second album.

Teamed with top producers Nellee Hooper (Bjork/Madonna) and Jake Gosling (Ed Sheeran), and co-written with the likes of Dan Wilson (Someone Like You) and Eg White (Leave Right Now), she has created a soulful album where the ballads soar.

She brings her sense of drama to the showstopping numbers Beauty of the End and Agony, whilst 30 Minute Love Affair and Blood Sweat & Tears could follow opening track Picking Up The Pieces as hit singles.

She pushes those distinctive vocals, part soul diva and part Cyndi Lauper with a hint of Hackney, though her lyrics still sometimes tip towards schoolgirl poetry in an engagingly naive way.

Whilst Fall To Grace doesn't have the quirkiness of her 2009 debut Do You Want The Truth or Something Beautiful? it more than makes up for that in passion. Fall To Grace certainly proves that the charmingly eccentric Miss Faith, a former magician's assistant, is no novelty act.

She will be in concert at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on February 2, 2013.

Rumer – Boys Don't Cry

THE second album from the mellow-voiced Rumer (real name Sarah Joyce) has been



Paloma Faith – plenty of passion on her second album

described as a stop-gap because it consists of cover versions. That does it a disservice because this will really hit the spot for fans of quality easy listening and soft rock, and I reckon the grey pound will make it an even bigger success than Rumer's 2010 debut Seasons Of My Soul.

Part of the reason it feels fresh is that Rumer pours the balm of her Karen Carpenter-like vocals onto lesser known songs, often from acclaimed but obscure male (hence the ironic title) singer-songwriters. Highlights include Jimmy Webb's PF Sloan (one songwriter's tribute to another), Flyin' Shoes from the late Texan troubadour Townes Van Zandt and the late Worcestershire songwriter

Clifford T Ward's gorgeous Home Thoughts From Abroad. Lovely stuff.

Ultravox – Brilliant

IT isn't brilliant but this album is an exercise in turn-back-the-clock nostalgia.

The hit-making Ultravox line-up, including singer Midge Ure, have come back together and it is like the nineties and the noughties never happened.

They reassemble those 1980s elements, which they most successfully distilled in biggest hit Vienna.

That's anthems built on washes of synth and echoey piano tinkling with Midge's soaring or whispered vocal.

They are in concert at Birmingham Symphony Hall on September 26.

Gemma Hayes – Let It Break

THIS is the fourth album from the petite Irish songstress and she will be bringing out Shock to the System as the first single from the collection.

You may not be familiar with Gemma's work but if you are a fan of hit TV shows such as Gray's Anatomy, One Tree Hill and The Vampire Diaries then you may have unwittingly succumbed to her beguiling voice. There is a real depth to her singing and you feel the emotion in every note on tracks such as To Be Beside.

She has her own distinctive qualities but does evoke comparisons with The Corrs, Cyndi Lauper and even Joni Mitchell, apparent on Waiting For You. Her sumptuous voice is shown to full potential on Noise which is simply Gemma and a piano. Perhaps the best track is Sorrow Be Gone which carries more than overtones of Eva Cassidy.

Fay Hield and the Hurricane Party – Orfeo

FAY Hield has a talent for digging out fascinating songs with lyrics that carry the weight of years of storytelling.

Orfeo, latest offering from the Yorkshire academic, brings together the wonderful sound of the Hurricane Party plus Martin Simpson.

There are real treats on this album such as the a cappella sea shanty Pretty Nancy.

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Ballet gets Olympic spirit

Summer Celebration, Birmingham Royal Ballet, Birmingham Hippodrome
MUSCULAR and frenetic ballet *Faster* got a warm reception at its world premiere last week but no standing ovation for its choreographer, Birmingham Royal Ballet director David Bintley.

As this one-act ballet celebrates the Olympic spirit and eye-on-the-prize determination, that felt more like a silver than gold medal performance. Olympic bureaucrats had already soured matters by refusing permission for the 35-minute work to be named *Faster, Higher Stronger*. The International Olympic Committee belatedly ruled that the Olympic motto could not be used.

Power

Bintley's work celebrates physical power and pursuit of excellence in sport, reflected in the fitness and pursuit of perfection in ballet. His choreography mirrored the disciplines of track and field, even synchronised swimming, rugby and fencing and, to amusing effect, race walking. But Matthew Hindson's clattering disaster movie-like score was deafeningly dramatic.

The triple bill also featured *The Grand Tour*, a 1930s voyage with such celebrities as Noel Coward. Joy Layon's choreography was amusing, particularly with dancers puffing from cigarette holders. Frederick Ashton's *The Dream* was magical, and as Bottom Jonathan Caguiua danced 'en pointe', a real hooray!

Leon Burakowski

Leon Burakowski

Summer romance as show offers the time of your life

DIRTY Dancing became the soundtrack to a generation when Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey brought their onscreen magic to the hit 1987 American movie.

Their coming-of-age romantic drama told the story of a girl's relationship with her dance instructor, who she met during a summer holiday.

Starring a young Patrick Swayze as dancer Johnny Castle and then unknown actress Jennifer Grey as Frances 'Baby' Houseman, the film was a love story that spans the class divide and had young girls lusting after the hunky male star with the sexy moves.

Now the story is being retold on stage in a production that opened at Birmingham Hippodrome last night (Wednesday) and will run throughout the summer, until August 25.

Baby

The production features hit songs, including *Hungry Eyes*, *Hey Baby*, *Do You Love Me?* and *I've Had The Time Of My Life*."

Californian star Jill Winkert, who plays the lead role of Baby, said: "The run in Birmingham will last for eight weeks."

"We're very excited," Paul Michael Jones, who plays Johnny, added: "We'd been doing it for nearly a year and the audience responses have been electric."

Another major musical opens in Birmingham next week when 1930s-set show 42nd Street starts a five-day run at the New Alexandra Theatre on Tuesday, July 10, with Marti Webb.



He will not be putting Baby in a corner – Paul Michael Jones and Jill Winternitz in the musical Dirty Dancing

Movie star on red carpet

HOLLYWOOD star Danny DeVito will be treading the red carpet in Birmingham later this month, along with members of the US and Jamaica Olympic squads, at the premiere of new 3D animated movie Dr Seuss' *The Lorax*.

Cineworld on Broad Street will be hosting the prestigious screening of the major new family movie on the morning of Sunday, July 22. DeVito voices the title character in the film made by the same team behind hit film *Despicable Me*.

Men In Black star Will Smith brought Broad Street to a halt when he visited the same cinema in 2005.

Grave humour to start summer play season

The Cemetery Club, Wolverhampton Grand

IT WAS an excellent start to Ian Dickens' Summer Play Season at the Grand Theatre last week with Ivan Menchell's *The Cemetery Club*, first of four productions.

As the title would suggest this is a black comedy and surrounds the lives of three widows who meet on a regular basis to visit their husbands' graves. But there is much more to this play than that. It's a moving and extremely witty production which takes the audience on a rollercoaster ride of emotions, from unexpected laugh-out-loud moments to the heart-wrenching feelings caused by the loss of loved ones, and played to perfection by an all-star cast.

Rapport

There is a completely natural rapport between the three actresses in the leading roles, which only comes from extensive experience and pure talent. Anita Harris skillfully takes the character of Ida, a widow struggling with the frustration of moving on with her life and allows you to feel every disappointment she faces. Shirley-Anne Field is wonderfully flirty and exceptionally glamorous as man-eater Lucille, while ex-Neighbours star Anne Charleston simply lives her role as Doris, who just cannot let go of the past.

Although a little long-winded, the surprising ending makes it extremely watchable. The Cemetery Club is without doubt a snapshot of real life and the heartaches we face in our twilight years. **Alison Norton**

The season continues this week with political thriller *Dead Ringer* (to Saturday) and Melvyn Hayes growing old disgracefully in Ron Aldridge's comedy *You're Only Young Twice* (July 10 to 14). Then former Doctor Who Colin Baker plays a grumpy old man who refuses to leave his home in new comedy *The Final Test*, the first play by author Chris Paling (July 17-21).

Epic vision of the future

New books
2312 – Kim Stanley
Robinson (Orbit)

FROM its opening description of mankind's colony on Mercury, a city that crawls on rails across the planet's darkside to avoid the burning intensity of the sun, this bold vision of the far-flung future is gripping.

Many humans have left the Earth for the planets and moons of the solar system. But the politics and terrorism of Earth still dogs them. At 560 pages this is a weighty tome but the author's imagination and characters will hold you.

Tubes – Andrew Blum (Penguin)
Where's the Internet, in the 'cloud'? No, it's probably under your feet says

US Wired's Andrew Blum. It's a bunch of tubes, fibre-optic cables to be exact. They form a hidden network involving semi-secret data warehouses. It's an incredible feat of engineering that the Victorians who laid transatlantic cable would have appreciated. The writer explores this international network and meets those that keep it running.

In The Shadow Of The Sword – Tom Holland (Little Brown)

(Little Brown)
Historian Holland's epic account of the roots of Islam has the dynamism of a thriller with lots of war and intrigue. Some of his theories are contentious.

Leon Burakowski

Leon Burakowski

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SATURDAY'S TV 7.07.12

CHOICE



Nick Knowles hosts

The National Lottery: Secret Fortune

BBC1, 8.20pm
Lottery winners are always people you have never met, and who don't plan on popping round to buy you a Lamborghini any time soon. But the BBC has tried to spread the wealth by making the shows that revolve around those Lottery balls offer a little something for those at home. Step forward Nick Knowles, who is out to ensure viewers get a smile as wide as his own. Secret Fortune is the high-tension quiz show with two players, twenty four envelopes, and one secret fortune. It could be one hundred pounds – or one hundred thousand pounds.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Raymond Blanc's Kitchen Secrets. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** Escape to the Country. **1.30** Wimbledon 2012.
6.10 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
6.30 **Film: Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom.** (1984) Action adventure, starring Harrison Ford.
8.20 **The National Lottery: Secret Fortune.** Siblings Zoe and Ronnie compete in the high-tension quiz show presented by Nick Knowles, hoping to win enough money to take their mother on a trip to Las Vegas.
9.10 **Casualty.** The ED staff deal with a potentially fatal application of force by police officers, who use a stun gun on an ex-con during a domestic incident. Guest starring Natalie Gavin.
10.00 BBC News; Weather.
10.20 **Mrs Brown's Boys.** Agnes ends up at the wrong venue after trying to gatecrash Maria's hen party. She then tries to impress the bride-to-be's mother during a dinner date, but the evening ends in chaos. (R)
10.50 **Live at the Apollo.** Stand-up comedy from the Hammersmith Apollo. (R) National Lottery Update.
11.35 **Film: 16 Blocks.** (2006) A burned-out cop escorts a witness to a trial – but the crooked cops he is testifying against want him dead before he makes it to the courthouse. Thriller, starring Bruce Willis.
1.10 Weatherview. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **12.10** Live Formula 1: British Grand Prix Qualifying. The battle for pole position from Silverstone (Start-time 1.00pm). **2.30** The Sky at Night. (R) **3.10** **Film: The Desperados.** (1969) Western, starring Jack Palance. **4.40** Flog It! (R) **5.40** Dad's Army. (R)
6.10 **Wimbledon 2012.** Sue Barker presents further live coverage from the All England Club, featuring the women's and men's doubles finals.
8.00 **Today at Wimbledon.** John Inverdale presents highlights of the women's singles final from the All England Club. Plus, action from the men's and women's doubles finals.
9.00 **The Hollow Crown – Henry IV Part 1.** King Henry argues with his son and heir Prince Hal over the unsavoury company he is keeping – just as rebels threaten the land. Shakespeare adaptation, starring Jeremy Irons.
10.55 **Jeremy Irons on the Henrys.** The actor explores Shakespeare's depictions of Henry IV and Henry V, examining his treatment of fact and fiction and discovering why his plays may not be as patriotic as they seem.
11.55 **TOTP2.** Performances by Frankie Goes to Hollywood, Stevie Wonder, Spitting Image, Kylie Minogue, Gary Numan, Squeeze and Tina Turner. (R)
12.55 **Film: Small Engine Repair.** (2006) A would-be country singer and his mechanic friend discover more important things in life when an unstable ex-convict shows up. Comedy drama, with Iain Glen and Steven Mackintosh. **2.30** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **8.25** Saturday Cookbook. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** The Real Housewives of New York City. **12.15** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** **Film: Casino Royale.** (1967) **2.55** **Film: Diamonds Are Forever.** (1971) **5.05** Regional Programme; Weather. **5.15** ITV News; Weather. **5.30** Primeval.
6.25 **You Cannot Be Serious!** Alistair McGowan presents a topical entertainment show mixing clips, sketches and impressions based on the week's biggest and most talked-about sporting events. Last in the series.
6.55 **You've Been Framed!** Camcorder calamities. (R)
7.25 **Superstar.** New series. Andrew Lloyd Webber launches a new talent search to find an actor to play the title role in a forthcoming arena tour of Jesus Christ Superstar. Hosted by Amanda Holden.
8.25 **Let's Get Gold.** Vernon Kay hosts the final, as teams from across the UK try to impress Rio Ferdinand, Andrew Flintoff, Martine McCutcheon and Una Healy and win a £100,000 prize. Last in the series.
9.55 ITV News; Weather.
10.10 **Mad Mad World.** With Jonathan Ross, Denise Van Outen and Anthony Cotton.
10.50 **Take Me Out.** An actor, an impersonator, an office manager and a roller-blind fitter take part. (R)
12.05 The Store. ITV News Headlines. **2.05** In Plain Sight. (R) **2.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** British GT. **7.25** The Grid. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** T4: T4 on the Beach 2012: Buried Treasures. **10.00** T4: Love Shaft. **10.35** T4: Revenge. **11.35** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.10** T4: Summer Daze. **12.45** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.20** Road to London 2012: That Paralympic Show. **1.55** Channel 4 Racing. **4.05** Celebrity Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.05** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.10 **Come Dine with Me.** (R)
6.40 **Come Dine with Me.** Michelle Lindsay hosts the penultimate dinner party in Edinburgh. (R)
7.05 **Come Dine with Me.** Toni Giugliano hosts the final dinner party in Edinburgh. (R)
7.35 **Channel 4 News.**
8.00 **River Cottage: Three Go Mad.** Actress Felicity Kendal and Ashes to Ashes stars Philip Glenister and Keeley Hawes take part in a two-day cookery masterclass with Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall. (R)
9.00 **The Million Pound Drop Live.** Davina McCall presents the quiz show in which contestants can win £1 million, but lose money for giving incorrect answers.
10.35 **Film: Witness.** (1985) Thriller, starring Harrison Ford.
12.50 4thought.tv. **12.55** Stand Up for the Week. (R) **1.40** Comedy Lab: The Warm-Up Guy. (R) **2.05** Lucky Escape. (R) **2.10** The Million Pound Drop Live. (R) **3.30** My Friend Michael Sniff. (R) **3.35** Night Walking. (R) **3.40** St Elsewhere. (R) **4.30** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.25** Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Meerkat Manor. (R) **10.30** World's Craziest Police Pursuits 2. (R) **11.25** Big Brother: The Eviction. (R) **12.20** Ice Road Truckers: Deadliest Roads. (R) **1.25** **Film: Rio Bravo.** (1959) Western, with John Wayne and Dean Martin. **4.10** **Film: North by Northwest.** (1959) Hitchcock thriller, starring Cary Grant.
6.55 5 News Weekend.
7.00 **Cricket on 5.** England v Australia. Mark Nicholas presents highlights of the fourth and penultimate one-day encounter in the five-match series, held at the Emirates Durham ICG. With commentary and analysis by Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott and Simon Hughes.
8.00 **NCIS.** The agents investigate the death of a Navy lieutenant at the Pentagon, but discover the chief suspect died days before his apparent victim.
9.00 **Big Brother.** Highlights of the most recent goings-on, including the latest eviction from the housemates' point of view.
10.00 **International Boxing.** Tyson Fury v Vinny Maddaloni. Live coverage of the heavyweight contest from the Hand Arena in Clevedon, Somerset, where unbeaten British prospect Fury returns to action.
12.00 SuperHouse. Live interactive gaming. **4.00** HouseBusters. Life-enhancing changes to a home. (R) **4.25** Great Scientists. Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. The animal duo want to learn to fly. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. Big Chris's karaoke machine breaks down. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Doctor Who **7.50** Doctor Who Confidential **8.00** Emeli Sande and Rizzle Kicks @ **9.00** The Vaccines and the Maccabees @ **10.00** Jessie J and Two Door Cinema Club @ **11.00** Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds and Calvin Harris @ **T**
BBC Four
7.00 The Blue Planet **8.00** Illuminations: The Private Lives of Medieval Kings **9.00** **Film:** Mesrine: Killer Instinct (2008) **10.45** The Comet's Tale **11.45** The Sky at Night
ITV2
2.30 America's Got Talent **5.30** **Film:** Garfield: A Tale of Two Kitties (2006) **7.05** **Film:** Flipper (1996) **9.00** **Film:** The Fugitive (1993) **11.40** Celebrity Juice
ITV3
3.45 Sherlock Holmes: The Last Vampyre **6.00** Agatha Christie's Sparkling Cyanide **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Lewis **11.00** **Film:** The Witches of Eastwick (1987)
ITV4
2.00 Live Cycling: Tour de France. **4.30** The Professionals **5.30** Police, Camera, Action! **6.00** 20 Managerial Appointments That Shook the World **7.00** Cycling: Tour de France Highlights **8.00** Superbikes – When Britain Ruled the World **9.00** **Film:** The Black Windmill (1974) **11.15** **Film:** Boogie Nights (1997)
E4
3.05 Desperate Housewives **4.00** Revenge **5.00** How I Met Your Mother **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.30** How I Met Your Mother **9.00** **Film:** The Devil Wears Prada (2006) **11.10** The Big Bang Theory
Film4
2.45 Zulu (1964) **5.30** Fantastic Mr Fox (2009) **7.15** Addams Family Values (1993) **9.00** Shooter (2007) **11.25** The Ormen (2006)

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SUNDAY'S TV 8.07.12

CHOICE



Fearnie Cotton hosts

The Nation's Favourite Number One Single **ITV1, 9pm**
The Queen isn't the only Great British institution celebrating a Diamond Jubilee this year – 2012 also marks the 60th anniversary of the UK singles chart. Even in these digital days, getting to number one still matters, but which single can lay claim to being the nation's favourite? That's what this new three-part series, presented by Fearnie Cotton, is about to reveal as it embarks on the ultimate countdown. A group of music experts drew up a list of 60 of the greatest number ones for the public to choose from.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00 Sunday Morning Live.** **11.00 Country Tracks.** (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.00 BBC News.** **12.05 Live Formula 1: British Grand Prix.** **12.55 Wimbledon 2012.** **5.30 Escape to the Country.** (R) **6.30 BBC News;** Regional News; Weather.
7.00 Countryfile. The team heads to the hills of Kent, where John Craven learns about the life of National Trust founder Octavia Hill and Ellie Harrison samples a pint made with locally grown hops. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team return to the Weald and Downland open Air Museum in West Sussex, where items of interest include an elaborate clock and an old family toy.
9.00 Wallander. New series. The Swedish detective and his girlfriend move into a dream home together – only to discover a skeleton buried in the garden. Kenneth Branagh stars in the crime drama.
10.30 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
10.55 John Bishop's Britain. Former cricketer Andrew Flintoff talks about his hobbies on the entertainment show that features stand-up, sketches and real-life stories. (R)
11.40 Room 101 – Extra Storage. **12.20 Weatherwise.** **12.25 Sign Zone:** Indian Ocean with Simon Reeve. (R) **1.25 Holby City.** (R) **2.25 The Great British Country.** (R) **3.25 The Great British Railway Journeys** Goes to Ireland. (R) **3.55 BBC News.**

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00 CBBC.** **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** **11.30 MotoGP.** **12.55 Live Formula 1: British Grand Prix.** Coverage from Silverstone (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.30 Film:** Herbie Rides Again. (1974) Disney comedy sequel, starring Helen Hayes. **4.55 Songs of Praise.** **5.30 Wimbledon 2012.** **8.00 Secrets of Our Living Planet.** Chris Packham travels around the globe to reveal the secrets of watery habitats, examining how plankton influence atmosphere and climate. Last in the series.
9.00 World's Most Dangerous Roads. New series. Comedians Ed Byrne and Andy Parsons brave sub-zero temperatures and traverse icy routes to drive along Siberia's M56 Kolyma highway, known as the "Road of Bones".
10.00 Mock the Week. Milton Jones and Ava Vidal join Dara O Briain, Hugh Dennis, Andy Parsons and Chris Addison for the topical comedy panel show. (R)
10.30 Line of Duty. Gates is desperate to sever his ties with Jackie after being duped into covering up her crime, but the DCI faces further danger as Arnot and Fleming close in on his secret. (R)
11.30 Episodes. Merc's moment of glory at the Man of the Year event is ruined when he learns about Matt's affair with Jamie, and Sean decides whether to fight for Beverly. Last in the series. (R)
12.00 Today at Wimbledon. **1.00 MotoGP.** (R) **2.25 BBC News.** **4.00 Close.**

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25 CITV.** **8.25 Dinner Date.** **9.25 ITV News.** **9.30 House Gift.** **10.25 There's No Taste Like Home.** (R) **11.25 The Hungry Sailors.** (R) **12.25 ITV News: Weather.** **12.35 Dickinson's Real Deal.** (R) **1.35 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **2.40 Film:** Columbo Goes to the Guillotine. (1989) **4.30 Doc Martin.** **5.35 The Chase.** (R) **6.30 Regional Programme;** Weather.
6.45 ITV News: Weather.
7.00 Emmerdale. Marlon finds Ashley in Holland and offers him a place to stay, making it clear he is merely repaying him for officiating at Tricia's funeral.
7.30 Coronation Street. Peter's hatred of Nick erupts at Simon's birthday party in the Bistro. Steve resorts to bribery to get Tracy and Beth out of No 13 and Faye's bullies step up their campaign.
8.00 Superstar. Andrew Lloyd Webber continues the search for an actor to portray Jesus, inviting the final 40 hopefuls to Superstar Island for a week of training.
9.00 The Nation's Favourite Number One Single. New series. Fearnie Cotton reveals the results of an online poll to find the UK's best-loved chart-topping single of the past 60 years, with the countdown beginning at number 60.
10.30 ITV News; Weather.
10.45 Film: Children of Men. (2006) Thriller, starring Clive Owen.
12.45 The Store: ITV News Headlines. **2.45 Golden Balls.** (R) **3.35 Motorsport UK.** **4.25 ITV Nightscreen.** **5.30 Morning News.**

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Sail Mail. (R) **6.15 The Hoobs.** (R) **6.40 The Hoobs.** (R) **7.05 Ironman 2012.** **7.35 FIM Superbike World Championship 2012.** (R) **8.00 Will & Grace.** (R) **8.30 Will & Grace.** (R) **8.55 Frasier.** (R) **9.25 Frasier.** (R) **10.00 Sunday Brunch.** **12.40 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **1.10 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **1.40 The Simpsons.** (R) **2.10 Film:** Take the Lead. (2006) **4.30 Come Dine with Me.** **5.30 Deal or No Deal.** **6.30 Channel 4 News.** **7.00 Film:** St. Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold. (2009) Premiere. The mischievous schoolgirls hunt for buried treasure after learning their headmistress is a descendant of pirates. Comedy sequel, with Rupert Everett and Gemma Arterton.
9.00 Thelma & the Gypsy Girls. New series. Dress-maker Thelma Madine expands her business and decides to hire a group of inexperienced gypsy and traveller girls as trainees.
10.00 Undercover Lover. Documentary following a 24-year-old self-made millionaire who hides his possessions and luxury lifestyle to find a woman who likes him for who he is and not his wealth.
11.05 Film: The Running Man. (1987) A convict takes part in a brutal TV game show in which he is hunted by a series of gadget-wielding killers. Sci-fi action adventure, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, Yaphet Kotto, Maria Conchita Alonso and Richard Dawson.
12.55 thought.tv. **1.00 Camelot.** (R) **1.45 Hollyoaks.** (R) **3.50 Southland.** **4.35 Deal or No Deal.** (R) **5.30 Countdown.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05 Roary the Racing Car.** (R) **6.15 Fifi and the Flowerets.** (R) **6.25 City of Friends.** (R) **6.35 Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs.** (R) **6.50 Castle Farm.** (R) **6.55 Abby's Flying Fairy School.** **7.05 Roobarb and Custard Too.** (R) **7.10 Bananas in Pyjamas.** (R) **7.25 Family.** (R) **7.30 Noddy in Toyland.** (R) **7.45 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures.** (R) **7.55 Little Princess.** (R) **8.05 Mio Mao.** (R) **8.10 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky.** (R) **8.20 Milkshake! Show Songs.** (R) **8.25 Angelina Ballerina.** (R) **8.45 Rupert Bear.** (R) **9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) **9.15 The Mr Men Show.** (R) **9.25 Roary the Racing Car.** (R) **9.40 Jelly Jamm.** (R) **10.00 Meerkat Manor.** (R) **10.30 Police Interceptors.** (R) **11.30 Big Brother.** (R) **12.30 Film:** Murder Most Foul. (1964) **2.15 Film:** Home Alone 4. (2002) **4.00 5 News Weekend.** **4.05 Film:** Zathura: A Space Adventure. (2005)
6.00 Film: Ghostbusters. (1984) Three eccentric scientists who set up a ghost-catching business together and end up having to save the world. Supernatural comedy, with Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd and Sigourney Weaver.
8.00 Once Upon a Time. Ruby demonstrates hidden talents.
9.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights.
10.00 Film: AVP: Alien vs. Predator. (2004) Sci-fi thriller, with Sanaa Lathan.
11.55 World's Craziest Daredevils. (R) **12.55 SuperCasino.** **4.00 Sons of Anarchy.** **4.30 County Secrets.** (R) **5.00 Hana's Helpline.** (R) **5.10 The Milkshake! Show.** (R) **5.35 Thomas & Friends.** (R) **5.45 Roary the Racing Car.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Formula 1: British Grand Prix Highlights **8.00 Elbow @ T.9.00 Nicki Minaj and Chase and Status @ T.10.00 Family Guy** **10.45 Kasabian @ T.9.1**
BBC Four
7.00 Lonesome George and the Battle for Galapagos **8.00 How to Go Faster and Influence People:** The Gordon Murray F1 Story **9.00 Film:** Amadeus (1984) **11.50 Still Ringing After All These Years:** A Short History of Bells
ITV2
2.15 Film: Flipper (1996) **4.05 Film:** Batteries Not Included (1987) **6.15 Film:** Hulk (2003) **9.00 Benidorm** **10.00 Mark Wright** **11.00 Film:** Three Kings (1999)
3.50 Film: Carry On Cruising (1962) **5.40 Agatha Christie's Poirot** **8.00 Agatha Christie's Marple** **10.00 Wire in the Blood**
ITV4
12.00 Live Cycling: Tour de France. Stage eight from Belfort to Porrentruy. **4.30 Police, Camera, Action!** **5.00 The Professionals** **6.00 Tommy Cooper** **7.00 Cycling:** Tour de France Highlights **8.00 Minder** **9.00 Film:** Assassins (1995) **11.40 Film:** Wild at Heart (1990)
ITV5
3.10 Glee **4.10 Revenge** **5.10 Film:** 10 Things I Hate About You (1999) **7.10 Rules of Engagement** **8.00 The Big Bang Theory** **9.00 Film:** Mission: Impossible III (2006) **11.25 2 Broke Girls** **11.55 Don't Trust the B*** in Apartment 23**
Film4
3.05 One Million Years BC (1966) **5.00 MirrorMask** (2005) **7.00 Coraline** (2009) **9.00 What Happens in Vegas** (2008) **10.55 Happy-Go-Lucky** (2008)

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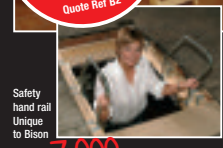


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Friday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Heir Hunters. (R)
10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R)
BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Cowboy Train. (R) 11.45
Doorstep Crime 999. BBC News; Weather. 12.15
Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 2.15
Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15
Escape to the Country. (R) 3.00 News. BBC
Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15
Pointless. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30
Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The
One Show. 7.30 A Question of Sport; BBC News;
Weather. 8.00 EastEnders. 9.30 Who? Lie
to You? (R) 9.00 News Tricks. (R) 10.00 BBC News.
10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Michael
McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow. (R) 11.20 The
National Lottery Friday Night Draws. 11.30 White
Van Man. 12.00 EastEnders. (R) 1.55 Weatherview.
2.00 The Zone. 3.00 News. 3.05 BBC Weather.
Biggest Losers. (R) 4.00 Great British Menu. (R)
4.30 BBC News.

BBC2 CBeebies. 11.30 BBC World News. 12.00 Daily Politics. 1.00 Climbing Great Buildings. (R) 1.30 To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) 2.15 Weakies. (Link.) (R) 3.00 Show Me the Monet. 3.45 The Hairly Bikers' Food Tour of Britain. (R) 4.30 Flog It! (R) 5.15 Antiques Road Trip. (R) 6.00 Live Athletics: London Grand Prix. Coverage of the eighth Diamond League meeting of the season at Crystal Palace. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Newsnight. 7.15 11.00 Weather. 11.05 Golf: Scottish Open. 12.05 T in the Park 2012 - Highlights. 2.05 BBC News. 4.05 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning.

News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 May be Best House Win. (R) 3.00 Secret Dealers. 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 A Touch of Frost. (R) 5.00 Popping Point. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 Top of the Pops. 7.00 Emmetdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 Grimefighters. (R) 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Case Sensitive. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Film: Batman Begins. (2001) Christopher Nolan's adventure starring Christian Bale. 1.05 The Store; ITV News Headlines. 3.05 Film: Jaws: The Revenge. (1987) Thriller sequel, starring Michael Caine. 4.35 ITV Nightseries. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.05 The Treacle People. (R) 6.15 The Hoobs. (R)

[illegible]

Lunchtime. **12.15** Big Brother. (R) **1.15** Home and Away. **1.45** Neighbours. **2.15** The Mentalist. (R) **3.15** Film: *Lying to Be Perfect*. (2010) Romantic comedy, with Poppy Montgomery and Adam Kaufman. **5.00** 5 News at 5. **5.30** Neighbours. (R) **6.00** The Mentalist. (R) **6.30** 5 News at 6.30. **7.00** Building the London Underground. (R) **5** News Update. **8.00** Ice Road Truckers: Deadliest Roads; **5** News at 9. **9.00** Big Brother: Live Eviction. **10.00** The Bachelor. Spencer discovers one of the women has been hiding a secret. **11.00** Big Brother: Live Eviction. **12.00** 5 News at 12. **3.30** Motorsport Mundial. **4.30** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.10** House Doctor. (R)

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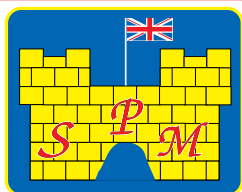
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KINGSWINFORD CAVENDISH CLOSE £635 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Single Garage, No DSS, No Pets.	DUDLEY STOURBRIDGE ROAD £400 pcm Terrace Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Rear Garden, Unfurnished.	WORDSLEY CROWN OAKS DRIVE £575 pcm Ground Floor Flat, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, En suite, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Maintained Gardens, Off Road Parking, No Pets.	PENSNETT CORBYNS HALL ROAD £520 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Front & Rear Garden, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished.
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PENSNETT COMMONSIDE £495 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Unfurnished, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens.	TIPTON WOOD STREET £595 pcm BUNGALOW, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Garden, Off Road Parking, Single Garage.	KINGSWINFORD RAGEES ROAD £395 pcm First floor Studio Apartment, Security Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom Area, Shower Room, Electric Heating, Communal Gardens, Off Road Parking, FURNISHED.	BRIERLEY HILL ADELAIDE STREET £450 pcm Terraced Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Refitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Rear Garden.
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PENSNETT PRIMROSE PARK £575 pcm End Terrace Property, Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front and Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking.	KINGSWINFORD BROAD MEADOW £695 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Cloakroom, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Single Garage.	PENSNETT HIGH STREET £425 pcm First Floor Flat, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished.	GREAT BRIDGE EAGLE PLACE £370 pcm Second Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Private Parking, Security Entrance.
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Price reduction on 17th century home



Landscaped gardens surround the house in Lower Hillcott, a semi-rural retreat near the town of Bridgnorth

A 17th CENTURY property in a splendid semi-rural location has been reduced in price and is now on the market based on offers around £650,000.

Lower Hillcott, The Down, Bridgnorth, is full of charm while retaining its rustic origins with most rooms preserving original features.

Either side of the front door the sitting and dining rooms have high beamed ceilings and inglenook fireplaces with woodburning stoves, with a recent extension of a bespoke green French oak conservatory with vaulted ceiling and full height glass panelling with doors out to a decked seating area.

The kitchen/breakfast room has a good range of base and wall-mounted units with integrated oven and there is more

storage and space in the utility room which has an integrated freezer as well as the rear kitchen/boot room. There is also a cloakroom.

On the first floor are three bedrooms, one with en-suite shower, while the remaining two share a 'Jack and Jill' shower room as well as a family bathroom.

There are two bedrooms on the second floor – one en suite – as well as an area currently used as a study.

Approached up a gravelled driveway to a parking and turning area the gardens are beautifully landscaped with a large area laid to lawn, trees and herbaceous and flowering borders as well as a wildlife pond, small orchard, vegetable beds and greenhouse.

There is a garage as well as a separate stable block with an open bay, large stable and tack room.

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Spacious semi has annexe

A TRADITIONAL semi-detached house offering extensive accommodation including an annexe is for sale with a price tag of £182,500.

The property in Blakeley Avenue, Claregate, Wolverhampton, is situated at the end of a pleasant cul-de-sac with access to a wide range of local amenities as well as being convenient for the city centre and the M54 motorway.

With majority radiator central heating and double glazing (where specified), a front driveway and south-facing rear garden the house is offered with no upward chain.

On the ground floor of the main house is a dining room, 12ft 10in by 11ft 5in, with a feature living flame gas fire

and surround open plan living area comprising lounge area – 17ft 1in by 11ft 2in – with a gas fire and opening into a conservatory measuring 11ft 6in by 9ft with doors to the rear garden.

The kitchen, 11ft 2in by 10ft 1in, has fitted wall and base units, roll edge work surfaces, inset sink, drainer and mixer tap, gas hob and electric oven.

The ground floor annexe has a utility/second kitchen with wall and base units, inset sink and drainer, cooker point and plumbing for washing machine, bedroom four, bathroom with pedestal wash basin, WC and panel bath with shower over.

Call Rees Page on 01902 577777 for details.



Blakeley Avenue can be viewed through Rees Page

TOWN & COUNTRY

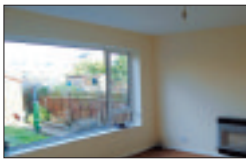
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WILLOWDALE GRANGE TETTENHALL

A Two Bedroom Ground floor apartment with accommodation to comprise of: Open Plan lounge/kitchen, inner hall, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having electric panel heaters, double glazing and communal grounds with an allocated parking space. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

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BISHOPS WALK CRADLEY HEATH

A most desirable five bedroom detached family home situated in a much sought after residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Reception hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, downstairs WC, five bedrooms master with en-suite shower room and family bathroom. The property further benefits from having double garage rear garden, gas central heating and double glazing. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£995PCM



ALBERT STREET LYE

A well presented and totally refurbished three bedroom mid terrace property in popular residential location, to comprise: Lounge, breakfast kitchen, rear lobby and bathroom, two bedrooms on first floor and third bedroom in attic. The property also benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and rear yard. UNFURNISHED DSS: MAY CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO. SMOKERS: NO

£550PCM



WALTERS ROW DUDLEY

An extremely well presented two bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of Kitchen, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and off road parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: YES PETS: MAY CONSIDER CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: NO

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HOLBOURNE HOUSE SEDGLEY

A very well presented one bedroom apartment in a newly developed block. Accommodation comprises lounge, kitchen, bedroom and bath/shower room. There is secure parking to the rear of the property. UNFURNISHED CHILDREN: No. PETS: No. DSS: No. SMOKERS: No.

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SURREY DRIVE KINGSWINFORD

A very well presented two bedroom townhouse situated in a popular residential location. Accommodation to comprise of lounge, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, off road parking and rear garden. UNFURNISHED DSS:NO PETS:NO CHILDREN:YES SMOKERS:NO

£475PCM



SEYMOUR ROAD WOLLESCOTE

A two bedroom semi detached property with accommodation to comprise lounge, dining room, kitchen, study, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, off road parking and rear garden. UNFURNISHED DSS: YES CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: NO PETS: NO

£420PCM



PAVILLION GARDENS DUDLEY

A well presented modern semi detached property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having garage, driveway affording off road parking, gas central heating, double glazing and front and rear gardens. PART FURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£525PCM



TEMPLE STREET LOWER GORNAL

A refurbished two bedroom first floor Flat with accommodation to comprise of: Communal entrance hall, private lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms master with en suite and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating and double glazing. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£395PCM



OLD WORCESTER ROAD HARTLEBURY

A Delightful cottage set in a small village between Worcester & Kidderminster with accommodation to comprise of: Porch, lounge, dining room, Inner Hall, cloakroom, utility area, kitchen, bathroom, landing and two/three bedrooms. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, side patio area and off road parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: MAY CONSIDER CHILDREN: YES PETS: YES SMOKERS: NO

£650PCM



LAKESIDE COURT AMBLECOTE

A well presented first floor apartment with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance Hall, fitted kitchen with built in appliances, bathroom with shower and two bedrooms. The property further benefits from gas fire central heating, double glazing, rear garden and off road parking. DSS: YES CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£470PCM



NORTHGATE CRADLEY HEATH

An Unfurnished One Bedroom First floor Apartment with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. The property benefits from gas central heating double glazing and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED DSS:NO PETS:NO CHILDREN: NO SMOKERS:NO

£350pcm

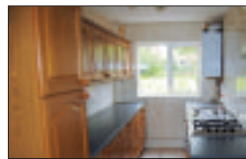


HILL TOP WEST BROMWICH

A spacious three bedroom detached property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of entrance hall, dining room, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, majority double glazing, blocked paved driveway affording off road parking, integral garage and rear garden. UNFURNISHED

DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: YES

£599PCM



JUNCTION STREET SOUTH

A very well presented three bedroom family home in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom, three Bedrooms and a utility area. The property further benefits from having gas central heating and rear garden. UNFURNISHED. Children: Yes DSS: May Consider Pets: May Consider. Smokers: No.

£550PCM



CRADLEY ROAD NETHERTON

A very well presented three bedroom detached property with accommodation to comprise: Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating double glazing, garage and rear garden. UNFURNISHED DSS:NO PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO CHILDREN:YES

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WORCESTER STREET STOURBRIDGE

An extremely well presented two bedroom mid terrace property situated in a popular residential location close to Stourbridge Town Centre. Accommodation comprises of kitchen, diner, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, partial double glazing. UNFURNISHED. DSS:NO PETS:NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS:NO

£495pcm



MAYNARD AVENUE NORTON

A three bedroom end terrace property situated in a popular residential location, accommodation to comprise of: Reception hall, dining room, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom, the property further benefits from gas central heating and front and rear gardens. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO PETS: NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: NO

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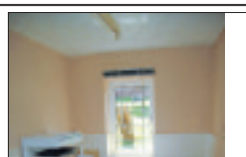
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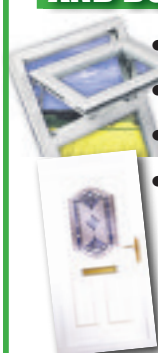
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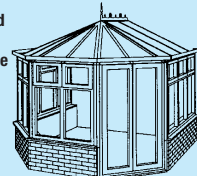
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public & legal notices

Notice of application to Vary a Premises Licence under section 34 of the Licensing Act 2003

Applicant: Mr Christopher Syner
 Premises Name: Stourbridge Conservative Club
 Premises Address: 11 New Road, Stourbridge
 Proposed variations:
 To extend the opening hours of the premises and hours for the sale/supply of alcohol and to authorise the entertainment to include films(1), indoor sporting events (2), live music (3), recorded music (4) performances of dance (5) entertainment similar to categories (4), (5) and/or (6), provision of facilities for making music (7) and dancing (8).

Between the hours of:

Day	Sale/Supply of Alcohol	Regulated Entertainment	Opening Hours
	From To	From To	From To
Monday	12.00 24.00	9.00 24.00	9.00 24.00
Tuesday	12.00 24.00	9.00 24.00	9.00 24.00
Wednesday	12.00 24.00	9.00 24.00	9.00 24.00
Thursday	12.00 1.00	9.00 1.00	9.00 1.00
Friday	12.00 1.00	9.00 1.00	9.00 1.00
Saturday	12.00 1.00	9.00 1.00	9.00 1.00
Sunday	12.00 24.00	9.00 24.00	9.00 24.00

Full details of the application can be inspected on the licensing register during a normal business hours at the address given below.

Responsible authorities and interested parties (people living or working in the vicinity of the premises named above) wishing to make a representation about the application should do so in writing, stating the licensing objectives upon which the representation is based. Any representation must be received within 28 days of the date of the application (by July 29, 2012) at:

The Licensing Office, Dudley MBC, Law & Governance, 5 Ednam Road, Dudley, West Midlands DY1 1HL

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5,000.

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WOLVERHAMPTON Pennfields 3 bedroom house, CH £115pw 01922 861620

property

accommodation to let

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 It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

NOTICE TO READERS
 Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

A ONE bed flat, over 50's, Chapel Ash, Wolverhampton, £340pm. Wednesfield HA 01952 436963.
AL CITY CENTRE Apt, fully furnished, parking, heating, DG, £350 pcm. No DSS. 07966 296154.
BEDSITS, Penn area, Clean / Quiet environment. Nr shops. No DSS 07768 687831.

BILSTON RD near W'ton College, 2 beds to rent, DG, CH, DSS 35+ welcome, 07773 256589

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COMPTON, W'ton, modern flats & studios, close to town centre, CH, DG, no upfront deposits, DSS 35+ welcome 07773 256542

DUDLEY 3-bed semi, unfurnished, nice garden, refs deposit req. £525pm. 07850 502453.

DUDLEY FURNISHED rooms in shared house, £85pw, CH, two 1 bed, furnished flat, £200pw. No DSS/pets, 07712 950040.

DUDLEY PENNSNETT Oldbury, 1/2 bed flat, rent by neg. £121 550 0064 / 07970 980955.

DUNSTALL/PARKFIELDS, very good 2/3 bed houses, £475/£520 DSS ok with Ref. 01743 357305

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FLAT ONE bed, nr Sedgley, CH, DG, carpark, no pets, children, or DSS, mature person, £240pm. 07517 027253.

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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Peugeot pull off the near impossible with their classy 208

PEUGEOT must be haunted by a car it hasn't sold for decades and is now rare as hens' teeth, with most of the five million made long banished to the scrapheap.

The car was the modest hatchback 205 and it proved one of those machines that get under your skin because they look good and are simply lovely to drive.

The 206 and 207 that came after showed the 205 had been a hard act to follow and, although they sold in shed loads, never managed to make owners love them.

Their successor, the 208 reviewed here, is tasked with banishing the 205's ghost and must be the most eagerly anticipated new Peugeot in years.

To live up to its high expectations the new baby has to pull off a dazzling trick: be as well equipped and well built as the best of current little hatchbacks (think Polo and Fiesta), yet as light and nimble on its feet as that original 205 from 1983.

Even small cars have to ooze class today and the 208 does, with expensive looking soft surfaces and, in most cars, a touch

By Ian Donaldson

screen that will (later this year and for a subscription) tell you everything from the weather to the nearest car park. Satellite navigation is a modest £400 addition.

But the biggest pointer to Peugeot's determination to make the 208 a game changer comes when you break out the tape measure and scales. For the car is smaller on the outside, yet bigger inside than the 207 it replaces and, crucially, lighter too.

Beneficial

Averaged across the range, it's like heaving the weight of two grown men out of the car, with obvious beneficial effects on everything from performance and economy to (let's hope) the way the car tackles corners and bumps.

The five-door test car, in midrange Active trim, costs £12,795 and includes as standard manual air conditioning, alloy wheels and the multifunction touch screen. Prices of the new range start at £9,995 and extend

to £18,495, although not many at either extreme are likely to hit the showroom.

Under the newly shortened bonnet sit a range of already familiar petrol and diesel engines and a couple of petrol powered units we have not seen before. They have a mere three cylinders and are likely to prove the most popular engines, in either 1.0 or 1.2 litre form.

Three-cylinders for economy is becoming familiar territory among car makers the world over and in the 208 produces an engine that feels happy to rev, with an engaging thrum and still showed 50mpg after a frustratingly constrained test drive of mainly stop/start city work and confined country lanes.

The 81bhp 1.2 litre in the test car will pull the 208 to 109mph and scores a impressive, if unrealistic 62.8mpg in the official consumption test. You'll pay no road tax the first year and a miserly £20 thereafter. And now to the controversial part of the 208's design, which Peugeot admits is a love-or-hate feature (most people like it, we're told), in the nicely sculpted shape of the smallest steering wheel this side of a single



The Peugeot 208 is smaller on the outside and bigger inside than the 207

seater racing car.

It's so tiny you look over it, not through, to read the instruments and for the first few miles it feels extremely odd.

Some of the 208's nimble feel comes from suspension firm enough to jar when the car

hits a patch of badly mended road and I'd have gladly traded a little cornering ability for a touch more comfort. That niggle apart, the 208 is Peugeot's most impressive effort for years.

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The Skoda Rapid – a compact saloon with plenty of room for five people and their luggage

Skoda saloon is all set to share advances with Jetta

SKODA has released further details of its fast-approaching Rapid compact saloon following a concept image some months ago.

Sized in between the Fabia and Octavia, the Rapid aims to capture sales in a corner of the market it currently doesn't serve. It's likely that it will end up sharing a lot of parts and

technology with the Volkswagen Jetta. However, the Rapid is the first Skoda to showcase the next generation of the company's styling.

Despite being smaller in every direction, it looks quite similar in proportions to a current generation Octavia, but with a nod towards the sort of straight-line architecture that the first Volkswagen-era Octavia used at its 2001 release. Skoda claims the

Rapid will have room for five plus their baggage, with five petrol and two diesel engines offered at launch.

With the fast efficiency advances being made with small, turbocharged petrol engines and the impending Euro 6 emissions laws that take into account diesel engines' particulate emissions, Skoda is anticipating that buyers will begin to swing back towards petrol.

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SPORT

thechronicle

Stour fail to get rub of Green in defeat

Stourbridge 73, Barnards Green 74-2. Barnards Green won by eight wickets

STOURBRIDGE seconds found themselves up against the elements at Barnards Green.

They were dismissed for 73 in 25 overs with opening bowler Shane Thompson removing five top-order batsmen in a nine-over spell which cost 27 runs.

The match was delayed for three hours due to rain, but ended with an easy eight-wicket victory for the home side.

Daniel Rees stopped his side crumbling like the visitors with a score of 46 to get his side home in 13 overs.

Stourbridge 118, Hallow 122-8. Hallow won by two wickets

The thirds went desperately close to victory at Hallow firsts. They were dismissed for 118 off 45 overs after skipper Keith Litster had lost the toss.

Teenagers Umar Khalid and Heran Patel topped the scores with 24 and 20 respectively. Chris Whettenbury bowled his full 17-over spell to take 4-33.

Stour gave Hallow's batsmen a run for their money as Shabir Butt ripped through the top order.

But resistance came from opener Greg Fowler (24) and No.4 Stuart Hayes (28). Hallow completed their victory in the 27th over with eight wickets down.

Butt finished with 5-59 off his 13 overs and disappointment that his team had suffered such a narrow defeat against first XI opposition.

Hallow 128, Stourbridge 132-1. Stourbridge won by nine wickets

The fourths crushed their opponents by nine wickets.

A team effort in the field saw Hallow bowled out for 128 in the 40th over after skipper Alex Dent won the toss and decided to bowl first. Middle-order batsman Andy Baker (42) and skipper Chris Mason (18) saved Hallow's blushes by seeing their team pass the hundred mark.

Stour reached the target in 19 overs. An impressive match winning opening partnership between James Springthorpe (33) and 14-year-old Thomas Jennings (62 not out) saw Stour well on the way to victory. Alex Dent (23 not out).

Fourteen-year-old Abigail Houghton, who is part of the Worcestershire women's squad, made her debut in the senior league team and took 1-13.

Dyer's keen on landing Hammer spoils

Dudley Heathens

and it's amazing the support you get. When you win a race and do a victory lap in front of the Heathens' fans it is the best feeling."

The Hammer pulls in supporters from all over the country and there will be a rider autograph session.

Co-promoter, Halesowen-based Gary Patchett, believes every rider in the field will be desperate to win.

He said: "I feel the line-up represents the very best riders the National League has to offer and is enhanced by four riders who have a special affiliation with the event

and a place in the hearts of Heathens supporters.

"Alongside this season's team we were delighted that former Heathens Lee Smart, Kyle Newman and Micky Dyer accepted our invitations to ride in the event."

The Monmore Green meeting is once again promoting the FAST message through Dudley Stroke Association - Face, Arm, Speech, Time - and there will be a collection on the night for the charity.

Line-up: Ashley Morris (Dudley), Kyle Howarth (Warrington), Micky Dyer (Edinburgh), Rob Branford (Buxton), Adam Roynon (Dudley), Dan Greenwood (Dudley), Ashley Birks (Stoke), Steve Worral (Scunthorpe), Tom Perry (Dudley), James White Williams (Dudley), Simon Lambert

(Leicester), Darryl Ritchings (Dudley), Byron Bekker (Dudley), Kyle Newman (Somerset), Lee Smart (Redcar).

Meanwhile, fans are urged to snap up their tickets for the evening with Cradley legend Erik Gundersen, as the event is closing in on a sell-out. Gundersen makes his first appearance in the Black Country for years at The Venue Conference and Banqueting Hall in Dudley on Friday, July 20.

Tickets are £10 from the Heathens track shop or online at www.dudleyheathens.co

■ Dudley's Knockout Cup match at the Isle of Wight on Tuesday was rained off.

New club record set as Hitmen thrashed

Dudley 69 Buxton 23

DUDLEY set a new club record for their biggest victory by rubbing out the Hitmen at 'Monmore Wood'.

Skipper Adam Roynon, Ashley Morris and Tom Perry all went through the card as Dudley completed a 10th successive win in all competitions and eased six points clear in the National League table.

The Heathens went through the 60-point barrier for the fifth time this season - luckless Buxton the victims on three occasions - and only Dan Greenwood's heat 12 pirouette kept them this side of the 70 mark.

Greenwood went through the full 360 degrees on the first corner before heading at low speed straight into the safety fence.

Somehow he stayed on, gave chase and found determination rewarded when the unfortunate Ryan Blacklock - four falls in six races - hit the shale again and surrendered his third place.

Dudley wrapped it up with three maximum heat wins. But the best action came in the last heat - already a race of the season contender.

Perry appeared to go a touch wide and into the path of Morris out of turn two and Robert Branford went under the pair of them. Both Heathens squeezed past with Perry hitting the front.

Yet back came Branford to regain second as Morris lifted slightly, only for the Dudley man to wade back in over the home straight.

Morris, finally, prevailed - Branford having one last try off the final corner - to complete his paid maximum.

Dudley: Tom Perry 14-1, Ashley Morris 13-2, Adam Roynon 12, Byron Bekker 8-2, Darryl Ritchings 8-2, Dan Greenwood 8-2, James White Williams 6.

Buxton: Rob Branford 10, Adam McKinna 4, Luke Priest 4, Dean Felton 3, Chris Widman 1, Ryan Blacklock 1, Richard Andrews 0.

Club looking for new staff

DUDLEY TOWN FC are looking to fill two positions in their backroom team.

The first is a kit man/dressing room attendant who would report to the first team manager. The second is that of head gateman.

Club chairman Stephen Austin said: "We are looking for willing volunteers to join a progressive, community-focused club." Anyone interested should contact Austin for further information on 07412 046050.

Basketball girls look to step out of the shadows

SIX years ago Team GB did not even have a women's basketball team. Yet within weeks they will step out at London 2012 - and Dudley's Dominique Allen will be one of them.

It's been a long journey for a team who have fought their way up the world rankings and are still ranked only 49th - but are now filled with optimism.

The reason is this month's 81-57 win over the Czech Republic, ranked No.4 in the world. Allen herself has risen from the under-20s and played at the World University Games for the GB futures team ahead of her Olympic bow.

For her, the Czech match proves they are ready for the Games following their rise on the world stage.

"We've shown so much progression over the last few years," said the former Windsor High School pupil.

"I'm relatively new to the squad but we've known we're going to have a place in the Games for a while - it's not like we've just thrown a few girls together.

"We've had a process and 24 girls have been cut down in the last four months; it's been a long process but it's worked for us.

Upset

"I think we will surprise people and we already have. Last year we only lost to Russia by three points and they are one of the best in the world. We can upset a few people."

Team GB face Australia and Russia - joint second in the world - and sixth-placed Brazil in their group with little pressure on them.

And Allen remains pragmatic and grounded when talking about medals.

The long-term aim is to ensure they create a legacy for the sport - and step out of

by Nick Mashiter

the men's shadow. "People don't know much about women's basketball but once they see us playing they'll realise it's not all about the guys," smiled the 22-year-old.

"It does get overshadowed by them, but it helps the guys having all the big names from the NBA coming over and playing.

"Hopefully the profile will be raised. You want to see the development of it. We want to succeed to show people what we can do.

"The goal for us is to make the second round - get in the top eight and see what happens then.

"Everyone can win any game on any day."

Allen graduated from Oral Roberts University in Oklahoma in graphic design last month and is looking for a professional club after the Games.

Her move to the States, after she landed a sports scholarship, was driven by her desire to succeed in her sport.

At 16 she moved to Newcastle and played for

Northumbria University while studying her A-Levels. She followed dad Clive, a former player for the Birmingham Bullets, into basketball while younger sister Whitney is looking to move to America to emulate her after her A-levels.

And as she watches her sibling start her journey, Allen understands how privileged she is.

"It is amazing to be a part of it because I was the underdog to get in the squad," she said. "I'm one of the young ones. I didn't expect to get this far, so I was really surprised. I'm really excited and blessed to be in this position."

"We're back home for the summer so we've got a home crowd. It's the Olympics and I can't quite believe in four weeks we'll be there."

Kidderminster's Rachel Bragg has been named in the Team GB women's indoor volleyball squad for London 2012.

The 27-year-old will make her Games debut for the self-funded team who lost their financial backing in 2010.



Basketball duo Clive Allen and daughter Dominique Allen by Dudley Castle

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SPORT

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Dominique heads
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Hammer time
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Wright on target to beat the champions

HIMLEY boosted their Birmingham League Premier Division title hopes with victory over reigning champions **Barnet Green**.

In a game reduced to 35 overs per side, Himley restricted their visitors to 136-7. Indian star Rajat Bhatia, Nathan Round and Ashfaq Hussain all took two wickets each.

Greg Wright (54 not out) and Tom Kohler-Cadmore (39) then guided Himley home.

Walsall brushed aside **Kidderminster Victoria** by nine wickets, skittling them for 46, to remain top of the table.

Division One leaders **Wombourne** lost to **Smethwick** by five wickets. Smethwick's overseas player Kuldeep Diwan took 5-15 as Wombourne fell for 125 before Smethwick eased home with 11 balls to spare.

Old Hill (169-8) suffered a losing draw to **Kenilworth Wards** (209-8) to drop into the bottom two.

Matthias Treuberg claimed 3-29 for Old Hill, while Ian Walker hit 58.

Halesowen enjoyed a five-wicket Division Two win against **Old Eliza-bethans**.

Second win on trot for Fallowfield

TOP player Jeremy Fallowfield took a second successive win in round two of the Stourbridge Chess Club summer tournament.

He took a quick victory over the rapidly-improving Andrew Moore to lead the field by half a point.

Two other strong players, Nick Harris and Greg Dyett, entered at the second round stage, having taken a half-point bye in the first.

Club No.2 Harris defeated Welsh international Julie Wilson, who overlooked a tactical combination and went wrong in the ensuing combination. Dyett, meanwhile, won a piece against Steve Alcock and clinched victory in the endgame.

Ricky Brookes and Colin Woodall drew in a hard-fought 44-move game.

Results: Jeremy Fallowfield 1, Andrew Moore 0, Julie Wilson 0, Nick Harris 1, Greg Dyett 1, Steve Alcock 0, Ricky Brookes 0.5, Colin Woodall 0.5.

The next round is on July 11. Anyone interested in joining, should call Dave Scriven on 01384 423642 or visit www.stourbridgechess.f9.co.uk for more.

Haringey Box Cup winner in champions circle



Josh Aston with his medal

DUDLEY'S Haringey Box Cup winner Josh Aston could find himself sharing the ring with a reigning Commonwealth champion after his success in London.

The 19-year-old's trainer at Priory Park ABC, Paul Gough, is trying to arrange sparring for the teen with super bantamweight title holder Carl Frampton.

Gough has contacted Frampton's manager, former WBA world champion Barry McGuigan, about bringing his fellow Northern Irishman to the Black Country.

Aston wowed in front of the Box Nation cameras last Sunday to take

by Craig Birch

his club's only title from the event under the bright lights of the Alexandra Theatre in the capital.

Now the bantamweight – cousin of pro Ryan – could get some top-class sparring before his next amateur competition, the ABA Novices in the autumn.

Gough said: "Barry told me that, when he's local to us, he will get in touch so that Josh can spar with Carl Frampton."

"To share a ring with Carl would be a great experience for Josh, it's a completely different ball game with

him. I fully intend for that to happen before Josh goes back into competition later this year."

Aston will believe he has unfinished business in the Novices after missing a spot in the national final by a point last December.

But, before Frampton and his next mission, the teen will be not allowed to box at all as part of a gruelling fitness programme.

It's hoped it will make the fighter, who has 15 wins from 18 contests, all the more stronger when he returns to action.

Gough said: "I want to build him up to better suit his aggressive, come

forward fighting style and get him ready for the new season but it's not bulking up, as such."

"I still want him at 54kg but with more muscle and having burned off more body fat, everything will be heavy lifting."

"It will be power, stability and core stabilisation drills, offset training, we won't have him running or boxing at all."

"He will then go back into the Novices before the senior ABAs come around again next year."

"He's got a great engine, he just keeps going all day, you just can't wear him out."

Eagle has landed to give Clark the victory

AN EAGLE and three birdies helped Cameron Clark edge to victory in the Stourbridge Pro Am.

The Moor Hall pro and former PGA Midland skipper carded his eagle at the 502-yard ninth to ensure he was three-under par at the turn.

And that's how he stayed, two birdies and two bogeys on the back nine allowing him to post a round of 67.

That was enough to give him a one-stroke victory from fellow Moor Hall golfer John-Paul Banbury and Himley Hall's Mark Sparrow.

Banbury had been tied for the lead only to drop a shot at the last.

Something similar happened to James Whatley (Morley Hayes) who had eased to three under after 14 holes only to drop shots on the 17th and 18th.

That pushed him back to one-under for the competition, one of six players to shoot a 69.

On what proved a close-fought tussle, five more players were a further shot adrift including Halfpenny Green's Darren Prosser and former Ryder Cup player Paul Broadhurst.

One win on PDC tour for Fullwell

STOURBRIDGE darts player Nick Fullwell could only pick up one win in two days in the latest stop of the PDC Players Championship.

Fullwell did bank £200 after edging out Swede Magnus Caris 6-5 before a 6-2 defeat to finalist Ronnie Baxter last Saturday.

But the Sunday was a disappointment for the 43-year-old, who bowed out with 6-3 defeat to Andrew Gilding in his first game.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Kettley, Telford, Thursday, July 5, 2012.

STOUR SIZZLE, BUT THE WEATHER WINS

Stourbridge 222-9, Penkridge 188-7. Draw

AS THE Olympic torch meandered through the Black Country, Stourbridge turned up the heat on Birmingham League Division Three leaders Penkridge.

But their bid to force a win at the Memorial Ground fizzed out into a draw as the weather had the last word.

Stourbridge, put in, finished on the double Nelson of 222-9 off their 55 overs.

Openers Matt Bradley and Steve Game were both back in the pavilion by the ninth over with 35 on the board.

Game (two) fell lbw to Roger Weston; Bradley (17) misjudged the line of a delivery from the same bowler and lost his off stump.

Audy Alexander, promoted to No.3, survived two sharp chances but he and Josh Banks moved the Stour score to 139 off 23 overs. Working the ball all around the park, they made the division leaders struggle.

Forward

Banks's blossoming innings came to an abrupt end on 45, lbw well forward to a length delivery from spinner Shafiq Ahmed.

Skipper Richard Bradley showed his intent by smashing Mo Hassan to the outside boundary for six only to be caught at point in the same over.

Ahmed then claimed the wickets of Alexander, lbw for 72, and Alex Bingham

bowled for six. Jitesh Patel was stumped for six off Hassan to leave Stour 183-7 with eight overs remaining.

But the icing on the cake for Stour came from an aggressive knock of 33 by keeper Greg Jones and a stubborn 13 from off-

Stourbridge CC

spinner Mikeshe Patel. Ahmed bagged 5-69 off his 16 overs.

Stour's opening bowlers Matt Bradley and Jitesh Patel kept the brakes on Penkridge's reply. Bradley had opener Alex Watson snapped up in the slips for two and his partner Ben Holmes caught at point for 21.

No.3 Rana Hassan played 17 dot balls before smacking a six and two fours off Patel – but the change of tactics brought his downfall as the bowler had him lbw for 20.

Skipper Paul Szweczyk might have gone first ball, dropped behind off Dave Jones who replaced Bradley. But instead of 47-4, Penkridge moved to 147-3 as Szweczyk and No.4 Laeq Chishti put on a ton between them to put Penkridge on course for victory.

However, two heavy showers in the space of 15 minutes made conditions tricky; the match was curtailed to 51 overs and the winning target set at 218.

Szweczyk (43) and Chishti (64) were then dismissed and two further wickets had Stour scenting victory.

But they could not hold on to three catches and had to settle for a winning draw.

More cricket – Page 39

Recycling firm's boost for Heathens



Dudley Heathens have had a big lift after agreeing a sponsorship deal with Oldbury-based Recycled Aggregate Services. Heathens star Tom Perry is pictured with the firm's managing director David Burns, left, alongside team boss Will Pottinger. Golden Hammer line-up – Page 55 Picture: John Hipkiss Photography.

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